

AMUSEMENT TODAYTM

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SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

AIMS seminar offering 100-plus hours of new classes

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — This year's Amusement Industry Manufacturers and Suppliers (AIMS) International Safety Seminar, set to run January 12-17, will offer an abundance of new classes.

The annual AIMS International Safety Seminar is a comprehensive safety-training experience for individuals responsible for the care and safety of the amusement industry's guests. The seminar presents a diverse curriculum and planners work hard to bring in top instructors, all of whom are volunteers. The AIMS organization is dedicated to providing safety information to the amusement industry.

Patty Beazley, spokesper-



son for the AIMS seminar, said of the 360 hours of classes offered this year, 100 plus hours are new classes.

"Registration for attendance is going well," Beazley said, shortly after returning from the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Expo in Orlando in November. "We had 325 folks last year and we hope to hit 350 this year."

The seminar will be held

at the Doubletree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld.

Some of the new classes include Wood Pole Inspections; Introduction to Ziplines, Operations and Standards; Operations Duck Dynasty Style; and My Attraction Got Hacked – What is Your Attraction Network Security?

"We also offer a great autism class as well as a class about ADA for Aquatics," Beazley said. "We are also very pleased to be able to offer a Level I program in Maintenance and Operations in Spanish this year. We felt it has become very important for us to be able to do this."

The AIMS seminar offers certification programs in the following: Certified Maintenance

► See AIMS, page 5

NAARSO's 27th Annual Forum heads to Charlotte and Carowinds

STORY: Pam Sherborne
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ORLANDO, Fla. — Clyde Wagner, 2013 president of National Association Ride Safety Officials (NAARSO), was very pleased with the success of the association's newest operations certification program introduced during the 2013 Annual Ride Safety Inspection Forum.

He anticipated that this second year for the operations certification program as part of the 2014 forum would be just as well received.

"We anticipate a large class this year as well," Wagner said, during last November's International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Expo at the Orange



County Convention Center in Orlando.

The 2014 Annual Ride Safety Inspection Forum, a forum, which gives attendees, the knowledge to become certified in ride inspections, is in its 27th year. This year's seminar will run January 26-31. Inspector Certification Exams

► See NAARSO, page 6

New ride operator safety certification company announced; training set for Las Vegas

International Ride Operator Certification set for Circus Circus, Feb. 5-7, 2014

ORLANDO, Fla. — When Pigs Fly, LLC Creative Operational Concepts announced at the IAAPA Expo last November a new company, International Ride Training, LLC (IRT), that will focus on amusement ride and water slide training certification courses, safety audits and professional consulting services.

When Pigs Fly, LLC will continue to provide leadership, guest service and other soft skill classes for amusement industry management.

The company's seventh annual Ride Operator Trainer Certification school (ROTC) is rebranding as IRT's iROC International Ride Operator Certification school. This year's iROC school is scheduled



INTERNATIONAL
RIDE
TRAINING

for February 5-7, Las Vegas, Nev., at the Circus Circus Adventuredome.

Company co-owners Cindee Huddy, Patty Beazley and Darlene Reese-Sittig have all worked in amusement parks starting off as front-line operators and advancing through the years to senior leadership roles. The three offer a cumulative total of 90 years of experience.

"We are excited to provide a program that enhances a trainer's ability and skill set to ensure

safety procedures are taught consistently with outcomes that produce stringent standards of performance," Beazley said in making the announcement.

Huddy said that they were excited to create the new name that more closely describes the company's focus.

"It was just time to do so," she said.

New in 2014, IRT will offer:

- Gold standard accreditation that offers CEUs;
- Instructor licenses;
- Trainer certifications; and
- Convenient training delivery administration and tracking via web portal.

"We want to help the industry continue it's excellent safety record by providing an innovative, state-of-the-art train the trainer program for our

► See iROC, page 5

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EDITORIAL: Gary Slade, gslade@amusementtoday.com

Tidbits



Slade
throughout.

Congratulations to AT cartoonist Bubba Flint whose artistic ability is featured in a new children's book titled *Hungry for Snook*. Written by Sheila Powell Potts and published by Tate Publishing Children's Division, the book features Bubba's fantastic illustrations throughout.

While on the subject of books of interest, AT's own Scott Rutherford recently penned a book on the history of Carowinds for Arcadia Publishing. The 128-page book *Images of America Carowinds* gives a great history of the park and is loaded with a large selection of photos showing the park's history. Look for a review of the book in a future issue of AT. The book may be purchased at: www.arcadiapublishing.com.

AT says thank you to NJAA's John Maurer and Kim Samarelli who honored AT at the NJAA Breakfast Meeting during the IAAPA Attractions Expo in Orlando. The award was presented to AT publisher Gary Slade (see page 40) for the year-long commitment the publication made to cover the Jersey Shore recovery efforts following Superstorm Sandy. AT would also like to recognize West Coast Correspondant Dean Lamanna for his hard work and a job well done on the Sandy editorial coverage.

AT has exciting news coming soon as the publication will be launching e-edition of issues for reading on your mobile touch screen devices. The e-editions will only be available to paid print subscribers. Complete details will be announced very soon on Extra Extra Desktop Edition and at amusementtoday.com. Stay tuned!

It was good to see all the positive energy flowing during the four-day IAAPA Attractions Expo trade show. This can only be good news for parks as they gear up for what should be a successful 2014 season.

Gary Slade is founder and publisher of Amusement Today

CARTOON: Bubba Flint



EDITORIAL: Andrew Mellor, amellor@amusementtoday.com

The greatest (trade) show on earth!



Mellor

I am writing this column just a couple of weeks after the 2013 IAAPA Attractions Expo in Orlando so the event is still very fresh in my mind, although it will probably seem a distant memory by the time this is actually published.

Be that as it may, I can't let this annual event go by without commenting on it here. Once again the convention and trade show did the industry — and its organizers IAAPA — proud in bringing together members of the business from all corners of the globe and creating a shop window of all that any park operator might need to successfully run their venue.

According to official figures, there were approximately 29,000 registrants for the event, up from previous years, and it just goes to show that although some would like the Expo to move around each year like it used to do, Orlando still pulls 'em in. Indeed, notwithstanding the plethora of great parks attendees can visit, the convention center itself provides the perfect

venue for the show and all the other elements that make up the convention as a whole.

Among these, as always, are the fund raising events for Give Kids the World, including the annual golf tournament and motorcycle run. As a way of getting the week off to a good start they are perfect and I was delighted to be involved in the golf tournament which was again hugely enjoyable. And all for a good cause that is so close to our industry's heart.

Of course many other events were attended during the week and I naturally made the most of the opportunity to see as many industry friends and colleagues as possible during my time in the Sunshine State (which actually wasn't as sunny as it could have been!) One of those was Sally Corp.'s John Wood, one of the first people I ever interviewed at my first IAAPA show in New Orleans in 1980, and who this year was inducted into the IAAPA Hall of Fame. So many congratulations to John for this well deserved accolade.

And I'm already looking forward to November this year when we'll be doing it all again.

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2 MINUTE DRILL



STORY: Janice Witherow

Jason McClure, Cedar Point

Jason McClure has just stepped into a role of a lifetime: Vice President and General Manager of Cedar Point. He begins his tenure at this famed amusement park/resort situated on the shores of Lake Erie after serving as Vice President and General Manager of Cedar Fair's Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom since 2008. Jason also held the position of Vice President of Finance at both Carowinds and Paramount's Kings Island. Those who work with Jason describe him as determined, approachable, level-headed and respected ... all great attributes for successfully managing one of the largest amusement parks in the world.



Jason McClure, his wife Kim and their two children enjoy a spin on the 1921 Dentzel Antique Carousel at Cedar Fair's Dorney Park. Jason's new role as vice president and general manager of Cedar Point will no doubt be full of many more spins. COURTESY WWW.ESSENCEPHOTOS.COM

Title

Vice President and General Manager.

Number of years with Cedar Fair
12 years.

Best thing about the industry

There are so many things to like about our industry, but the best is the people: Our guests as well as those who work in the industry.

Favorite amusement park ride

Like so many, my favorite ride represents that milestone moment from childhood of the first ride on the big coaster. The Beast at Kings Island was my first big coaster, and remains my favorite. No other ride like it; it is one of a kind.

The first thing I do in the morning is ...

My iPhone is my alarm, and as soon as I turn off the alarm, I open Twitter to see all the important things I missed while I was asleep.

If I could trade places with anyone for a day, it would be ...

I'm good, no deal.

Least favorite household chore

Cleaning the garage. A frequent cleaning strategy at my house is to clean by moving things in to the garage where it remains until I get around to cleaning the garage.

What's your preference ... wine or beer?

Not a drinker. Check back after my first year at Cedar Point.

Do you collect anything?

Not in a traditional fashion. Those who work with me are familiar with the (baby) pacifier collection on my desk. It started with a couple in my desk at Kings Island, and grew to a full vase at Dorney Park. I highly suggest this, as there is very little whining in my office. No one wants to be presented with a pacifier.

The celebrity I would most want to have dinner with is ...

Jerry Seinfeld, preferably in a Chinese restaurant.



McClure

What three things do you always have in the fridge?

My favorites don't even require a fridge. I could survive on peanut butter, bananas and honey alone.

Favorite professional sports team

Here we go (Pittsburgh) Steelers! Here we go!

At the movies ... popcorn or candy?

Splurge. Popcorn is always better when you dump the entire box of Goobers in the popcorn bucket.

Best stress buster ...

Days that include a morning run are always a little less stressful.

Favorite food chain

Chipotle. When my family first moved to Allentown from Cincinnati the closest Chipotle was 30+ miles away. There were frequent road trips.

For me, the perfect Sunday is ...

Church, football and family.

The best advice anyone ever gave me was ...

"You should meet my friend, Kim (Shawna Stone)." Twenty-four years later, Kim (my wife) is still hanging out with me.

At karaoke night, I would sing ...

You won't catch me singing karaoke. However, when I head home to either visit my parents, or see my son at West Virginia University, I can't help but break out a little "Country Roads" while crossing the state line.

My next vacation will be to ...

Looking forward to my first visit to Jamaica.

Ten years from now I hope to be ...

It is unlikely that I will be fortunate enough to have a 40-year career at Cedar Point like my predecessor, John Hildebrandt, but I hope to still be part of the team at the Best Amusement Park in the World.

It's January! Best wintertime sport ...

Basketball – keep it indoors. Plus, college hoops tips off after our HalloWeekends event, and March Madness wraps up before our Opening Day. It is the one sport with its entire season taking place completely when the park is not in operation.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by



•**1908:** Fire of an alleged incendiary origin at **Ocean View Park**, the summer resort eight miles north of Norfolk, Virginia, on Chesapeake Bay, early January 27, destroyed the Bay Shore Railway pavilion, the bathhouses, a room of worship and the scenic railway.

•**1914:** With the closing of **Washington Park-On-The-Delaware**, in Gloucester, New Jersey, most of the rides were transferred to **Point Breeze Park**, in south Philadelphia. Much of work took place in January, with new management at Point Breeze Park, which had opened in 1912. The amusement park featured beautiful white washed pavilions, a large **Dentzel** carousel and a Circle Swing, with views onto the Delaware River. The park closed in 1923, and was later demolished to make room for the Western Power Plant.

www.RollerCoasterMuseum.org

•**1925:** A new project just 12 miles west of Minneapolis, Minnesota was announced in mid-January. The **Excelsior Park** project would be **Fred W. Pearce's** crown jewel, with a new **John A. Miller** underfriction roller coaster among its many new devices. Also involved with the project was **Vernon Keenan** and **L.C. Addison**. The park closed in 1973, and many of its amusement rides were moved to **Valleyfair Park**, in Shakopee, Minneapolis.

•**1928:** The **Giant** roller coaster at **Island Park** in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, was damaged during an ocean storm on January 24. Sections of the huge structure lay across the beach, while summer cottages in the vicinity of the park simply disappeared. In addition, damage to the amusement park in Newport, Rhode Island, was also substantial.

•**1930:** The ongoing construction of a new airport on the grounds of the former **Arlington Beach Amusement Park**, in Washington D.C., was highlighted in the January 5 edition of the *Washington Post*. With the assistance of a fleet of gravel trucks and tractors, the \$600,000 project, at the area adjacent to the south end of the Highway Bridge, underwent almost a complete transformation. As each section was filled in, the old amusement park structures quickly disappeared, as another popular park would vanish from the area.

•**1969:** **Sea World, Inc.** announced plans to build a \$12 million outdoor entertainment complex in the new community of Valencia, California on January 29. This new park would be a major diversification from the company's earlier marine life park in San Diego's Mission Bay. It would soon be known by a new name, **Magic Mountain**. It was designed by **Randall Duell**, who was partially responsible for an earlier design of the same name, in Denver (1959-1960). Opened in 1971, it now operates as a Six Flags park and is widely known for its selection of unique roller coasters.

—Compiled by Richard Munch, NRCMA historian

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►AIMS

Continued from page 1

Technician, Level I; Certified Maintenance Technician, Level II; Certified Operations Technician, Level I; Certified Operations Technician, Level II; Certified Aquatics Operations Technician, Level I; Associate Ride Inspector, Level I; Certified Ride Inspector, Level II; and Professional Ride Inspector, Level III.

Attendees build tailored course curricula that best suit their needs and the needs of their employers. Safety information is carried home and shared with colleagues and co-workers back on the job.

Attendees also build long-lasting relationships with instructors and their

counterparts across the globe. This networking opportunity enables the exchange of information between people performing the same functions at distant locations.

The seminar offers both sit-down and hands-on classes that will surely round any individual's experience. This valued participation is a requisite for all professionals in the amusement industry.

Some of the other courses that will be offered this year include: Successful Corro-

SAFETY

sion Control of Rides; Survivor Tools for Coaching Your Team; The Global Interaction; The Pennsylvania Amusement Ride Inspection Certification Program; Theatrical Rigging Inspection; Tower Restraints and Maintenance Schedules; Update of the International Code Council (ICC) Standards for Waterpark Signs; Utilities Carnivals; Wire Rope Inspection & Care;

Women in the Amusement Industry; Wooden Coaster and Train Inspection; Amusement Park Railroad; Arch Flash Awareness; ASTM Case Study; Carnival Bunkhouses; Carnival Employee Training; Common and Not-So Common Amusement Ride Safety Issues; Dynamic Braking; Dynamic Ride Forces; Fluid Power Advanced; and Fresh Carrots for Employee Recognition.

Registration and a reception will kick off the week's

events on Sunday, Jan. 12. Classes begin on Monday, 13, and continue Tuesday, 14, with oral testing for the Professional Ride Inspector also taking place this day.

Classes continue Wednesday, 15, and Thursday, 16, with AIMS Certification testing on this day. On the final day, Friday, 17, there will be classes offered in the morning, followed by an awards luncheon. Certificates may be picked up this afternoon.

►IROC

Continued from page 1

clients," Huddy said. "It is rewarding to set the bar high for our industry operators and be a part of their achieved success."

Huddy said registration to the 2014 iROC school is going very well.

"We are inspired by the tremendous response to our school," said Reese-Sittig. "Most meaningful are the many stories we hear from our instructors who share how they have professionally grown and improved their team's performance by using our program."

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Jonathan Brooks, left, 2013 vice president of the National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officers (NAARSO), seated alongside Clyde Wagner, 2013 NAARSO president. NAARSO is anticipating a good turnout for their annual Ride Safety Inspection Forum, set for January 26-31.

AT/PAM SHERBORNE

►NAARSO

Continued from page 1

will be offered on January 31. It will be held at the Sheraton Charlotte (N.C.) Airport Hotel and at Carowinds. The latter will hold the hands-on portion of the forum.

"Last year we had close to 300 in attendance," Wagner said. "We are expecting between 275 and 300 this year."

The development of the Operations Certification Program was driven by the out-

door amusement industry as it continues to strive to promote safety not only for its patrons but also for the employees working within the industry. This certification targets the complete operations side of permanent parks, traveling shows and rental facilities. Individuals wishing to sit for this certification will be tested on their knowledge of the safe operating procedures for amusement rides, devices and attractions.

Classes geared toward this new certification must be taken in order to sit for the exam.

Additional qualifications to sit for the Operations Level I exam include one year of experience in the industry in the area of design, manufacturer, maintenance, repair, operation or inspections of amusement rides or devices along with a high school diploma or equivalent.

Individuals can hold an Operations Certification and the Level I, II, or III Inspector Certification.

Some of the classes, other than those for the operations program, offered during the forum include: Rigging Inspections, Go Kart Inspection and Maintenance, Welding 360, Lubrications, Wooden Coasters, Steel Coasters, Corrosion Analysis, Visual Weld Inspections, Fasteners, Bearings, General Midway Safety, OSHA/Personal Safety-Lock Out/Tag Out Program, Non Destructive Testing, Foam Padding, ASTM Standards, Recognizing and Avoiding Ethical Traps for Inspectors, Dark Rides and Walk Through Inspections, Water Park Inspections, Miniature Trains, and Wire Rope Inspections.

Registration and the opening session take place on Sunday, Jan. 26. Monday, 27, and Tuesday, 28, are packed full of classes, followed by Hands-On Activity at Carowinds on Wednesday, 29. There will be a reception that evening.

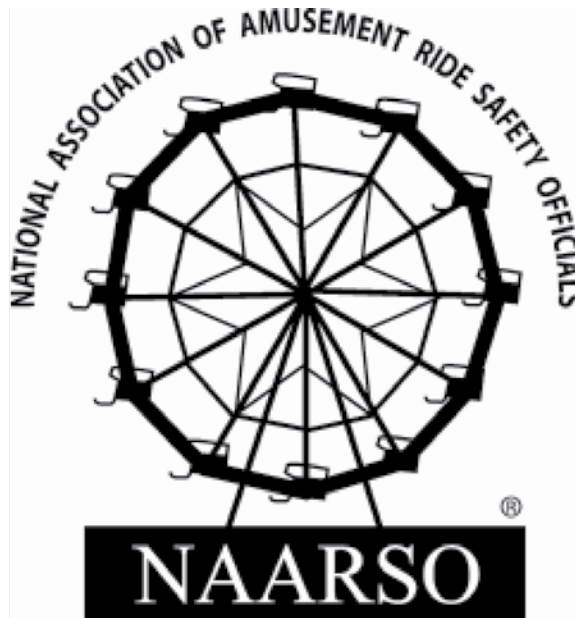
Elective classes take place Thursday, 30, as does the Operations Level I Exam.

Intense study reviews take place on Friday, 31, with testing later in the afternoon.

The reception and banquet takes place that evening.

Wagner said the 2015 28th Safety Forum is set to be held in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The location for the 2016 session hasn't been determined.

"We are really hoping for a great turn out this year," he said.



27th ANNUAL SAFETY FORUM January 26 – 31, 2014

It's that time of year to begin planning on attending the 27th Annual Safety Forum for the most up-to-date training and Hands-on activity experience. This year we will be traveling to Charlotte, NC with a visit to Carowinds.

OPERATIONS LEVEL I CERTIFICATION

We are please to offer our new certification, Operations Level I. In addition to the new certification our curriculum this year will include Operational classes to support the requirements for taking the exam.

Registration will begin on Sunday, January 26, 2014, with an orientation session. Classes will end after noon on Friday, January 31 and the Level I & Level II certification exams will take place later that afternoon. Tuition cost is \$445 for current 2014 members of NAARSO, non-member's tuition cost is \$495.

The event will be held at the Sheraton Charlotte Airport located at 3315 Scott Futrell Dr, Charlotte, NC 28208.

Room rates are \$85 single/double with discounted breakfast pricing

This year you can book your room reservation on line by using the link information below:
<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1303066192&key=CD253>

Membership Meeting will be held at the Shearton Charlotte Airport January 26 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

More information can be found on the website, www.naarso.com
Under the Seminars button

ASTM F24 fall safety conference sets new attendance record

WEST CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — ASTM F24, the committee on amusement rides and attractions that produces global safety standards for the amusement industry, held its semi-annual meeting Oct. 24-26 at the Hotel Valley Ho in Scottsdale, Arizona. Approximately 50 separate meetings were held, each one focusing on a specific safety element of the amusement industry. Attendance set a new record with more than 250 safety experts from 12 different countries participating.

Jim Seay, chairman of ASTM F24 Committee and president of Premier Rides, commented, "I continue to be humbled by the level of dedication that is shown by the ASTM F24 membership. For all these people to take time away from their daily responsibilities and travel on a voluntary basis all in the name of safety is quite impressive. The industry is fortunate to have so many people that care so deeply about the safety of our attractions."

ASTM International President, Jim Thomas, attended the F24 meeting and was impressed with both the wide diversity of interests that were represented and also the significant outreach towards young professionals that is ensuring a next generation of leadership for the F24 organization.

At the Main Committee Opening Session, Jim Thomas presented F24 member Greg B. Hale with the prestigious William T. Cavanaugh Memorial Award. Hale is chief safety officer and vice president of Worldwide Standards and Auditing for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. The Cavanaugh Award is granted to a person of widely recognized eminence in the voluntary standards system. The title of honorary member is bestowed on recipients of the award. Established in 1987, the award honors William T. Cavanaugh, who firmly established ASTM International as the world leader in the development and dissemination of voluntary consensus standards. Len Morrissey, director/TCO Division of ASTM International noted, "Greg's award is a testament to the passion

SAFETY

that the entire F24 committee exhibits and the seriousness with which the committee effectively and efficiently moves the safety standards process forward."

There were many highlights coming out of the

meeting as a result of both the formal meetings that were scheduled and the dozens of informal meetings that occurred on the sidelines. Of particular note, the groundbreaking Control System Standard was formally approved and passed. The task

► See ASTM, page 8



ASTM President Jim Thomas (right) awards Greg Hale the William T. Cavanaugh Memorial Award. COURTESY ASTM

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Ken Bell, Jim Hartley join forces for Park & Attraction Management Solutions

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Ken Bell and Jim Hartley, theme park and amusement industry veterans, recently announced Park & Attraction Management Solutions, an independent consulting firm based in Knoxville, Tenn.

Bell and Hartley recently launched Park & Attraction Management Solutions to share their practical knowledge and expertise in a variety of areas including organizational management

and development, marketing, strategic planning and financial planning.

Park & Attraction Management specializes in helping clients achieve revenue goals through expense management, strategic alliances and sponsorships, marketing planning, price structuring, as well as food and beverage and merchandise and games offerings and packaging. From an operations perspective, the company

SAFETY

offers plans for establishing customer satisfaction, safety, maintenance, capacity management, ride operation, evaluation and selection, and live entertainment and special events. Park & Attraction Management specializes in several areas of human resources, including leadership preparation, employee recognition and retention, and

succession planning. The team also conducts audits in all of the above areas to increase revenue through cost analysis and management.

"No one knows better than I do that the theme park and amusement industry is a lot of fun, but it's a lot of hard work, too," said Bell. "Our goal at Park & Attraction Management Solutions is to use our collective experience from a variety of backgrounds to help existing and new

businesses in our industry better manage their resources and position their companies for success.

"Ken and I have a real passion for the theme park and amusement industry and its people," Hartley said. "Through our tools for the trade, Park & Attraction Management Solutions exists to offer new insights through the prism of our past experiences so we can help others identify their best opportunities for growth and profitability."

Bell brings a 43-year career with Herschend Family Entertainment Corporation (HFEC) to Park & Attraction Management Solutions.

With more than 20 years of sales and business development experience, Jim Hartley is one of the top consultants in the theme park and leisure industries. An independent consultant since 1991, Hartley's career began in construction.

•paams.com

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▶ASTM

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group had been working many years on the important subject with literally hundreds of ballots being sent out in order to gain a strong consensus. The new standard will be the most detailed Control System Safety Standard in the world. Another task group, whose focus was restraint systems, got language passed that provides direction on the important subject of a Supervising Companion.

A number of important new task groups were established. One of them, being led by Dr. Kathryn Woodcock of Toronto, Canada's Ryerson University, will focus on accessibility issues on amusement attractions and devices. The first task group meeting was held to a standing room audience due to the high level of interest. Another task group on control system security is being led by Linda Freeman of Rockwell Automation. The group will focus on evaluating what challenges may exist regarding unauthorized access to ride control systems and what steps designers and operators can take to prevent such access.

The next ASTM Committee F24 fall meeting will be held February 12-15, 2014 at the Riverside Hotel in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

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Ziplines grow in popularity but safety standards still needed

ORLANDO, Fla. — Ziplines are not a new idea. But, over the years, they have grown tremendously in popularity among a variety of attractions, from amusement parks to ski slopes, to fairs and to stand-alone attractions.

Technological advances have taken the zipline from the backyard to great heights. But, a panel of experts addressing zipline topics at the International Amusement Park and Attractions Expo last November agree, in most cases there are not many standard safety regulations.

And, if there are, they can change greatly from state to state.

Sitting on the panel of Zip Your Way To Success: Zipline Innovation and Operations at the IAAPA Expo were Jeff Wilson, Extreme Engineering; Jim Liggett, Ropes Courses Inc.; Joe Horan, Jumper Bee Entertainment; and Brian Vauter, Natural Bridge Caverns.

Moderating the session was Omid Aminifard, Santa Cruz (Calif.) Beach Boardwalk.

The panel addressed several topics such as what to look for when purchasing a zipline. They agreed it is important to look at the local laws.

"Use your supplier," Wilson said. "They are pretty savvy about that."

Horan suggested that before heavily investing in a zipline to first check "with your insurance company to make sure you are doing what you are supposed to do."

Horan has mobile ziplines and has found great success in using them at sports' functions.

His biggest challenge is staffing with the mobile units and making sure training is conducted on site.

Vauter gave his experience in building his first zipline, then upgrading it. His first zipline was much simpler than the one that was installed this past year. But, because of the difference in regulations and technology, his insurance company no longer requires helmets.

"We first started all this by realizing that we could take advantage of the fact that the line getting into the caverns

SAFETY

can get very long," he said. "Sometimes it might take up to three hours to buy a ticket. So, we have all these people just standing there waiting. We first purchased a climbing wall. Then we built a zipline

and climbing structure. By doing this, we created a whole new stream of revenue."

His venue definitely had a learning curve, but what he did learn he shared with attendees at the seminar. Ropes Courses was the supplier of his new zipline.

—Pam Sherborne



IAAPA offered a panel session concerning issues facing owners or potential owners of ziplines. It was entitled Zip Your Way To Success: Zipline Innovation and Operations. Seen here during the question and answer period of the session are, from left, Omid Aminifard, moderator, Santa Cruz (Calif.) Beach Boardwalk; Jeff Wilson, Extreme Engineering; Jim Liggett, Ropes Courses Inc.; Joe Horan, Jumper Bee Entertainment; and Brian Vauter, Natural Bridge Caverns. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

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Tapeswitch showed a variety of its products at the 2013 IAAPA Expo. Company representatives included, from left, Annette Colucci, Vinny Colucci, and Pete Anderson.
AT/PAM SHERBORNE

Safety products displayed on IAAPA Expo tradeshow floor

ORLANDO, Fla. — There were a variety of exhibiting companies at the 2013 IAAPA Expo displaying products that are important to safety of the amusement facility and the amusement attraction. Here are just a few that *Amusement Today* visited during the show.

Tapeswitch, Littleton, Colo.

Tapeswitch was displaying its new product at the IAAPA Expo last November — a laser scanner that may be installed where there is dangerous equipment and people together at the same time. The scanner can be stationary or mounted on a moving vehicle.

"This technology isn't new but it is new to us," said the company's Pete Anderson. "It is the smallest one on the market right now. Sales already have begun."

The laser of the scanner responds to movement. It will remain green as long as there are no movements. As a person gets closer to the danger

SAFETY

area, the light switches from green to yellow and then from yellow to red, indicating that the person has approached too closely.

Tapeswitch makes a variety of switches that use scanning technology.

Millennium Elastomers, Gardena, Calif.

Walter Bowser said Millennium has been very busy relining wheels for amusement attractions as well as manufacturing hubs. The company is one of the largest urethane processors in North America with large companies such as Toyota, Crown Forklift, Raymond, Disney, Cedar Fair, John Deere and Caterpillar.

What product to use to reline existing wheels and how much depth to pour the product onto the hub is an important process for the overall

► See **PRODUCTS**, page 12



Walter Bowser, Millennium, said his booth had been very busy during the 2013 IAAPA Expo. He offers several different products to reline wheels as well as the expertise of manufacturing all new wheels and hubs.
AT/PAM SHERBORNE



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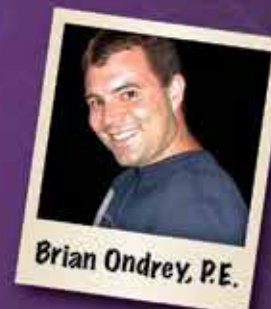
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►PRODUCTS

Continued from page 10

safety of the attraction when working for an amusement company.

"It is all about the load and the speed," Bowser said.

The company utilizes three products for their wheels — nylon, polyurethane, and rubber.

Hubs are cast in aluminum or steel.

SAFETY

Uremet Corp., Santa Ana, Calif.

Mark Moore was excited exhibiting Uremet's new product, a self-contained LED lighted wheel.

"Each wheel has its own generator," Moore said. "The lights stay off until the wheels are up to a certain speed, then they come on. The product is

still in development and each one will be custom built. They are very low maintenance."

Moore said the company will be installing the wheels in two locations next spring.

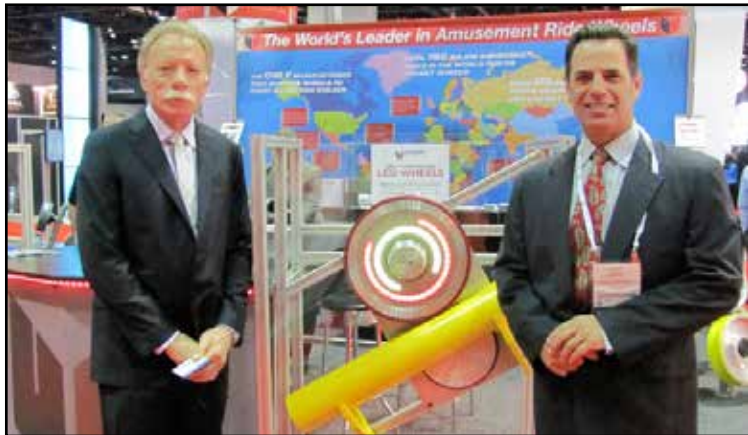
"I can't say yet where they will be, but one will be on the east coast and one on the west coast," he said.

Maclan Corp., Lakeland, Fla.

Maegan Wallace, Maclan Corp., was displaying the company's products at the 2013 IAAPA Expo. She said her company has been extremely busy providing wheels to the industry.

"This show has been really good for us," she said.

Maclan provides urethane and rubber products for a variety of industries. The company manufactures new roller coaster wheels and relines used roller coaster wheels. It also custom builds multiple products for the mining industry. Maclan has expertise in urethane, rubber, metal fabrication, CNC machining, sandblasting and painting.



Steve Zamolo, left, and Mark Moore, partners in the company Uremet, stand in front of their new line of self-contained LED lighted wheels. The product is still in development and will be installed into two locations in 2014.

AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Maclan Corp. was seeing brief business at the booth where company representatives were exhibiting an array of wheel offerings. Here, from left, are Arnie Lane, Maegan Wallace, and Randall Reid. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

The company will again exhibit at the upcoming IISF carnival show in Gibsonton, Fla.

KumbaK Amusement Engineers Weert, Netherlands

Creating a better and less aggressive ride experience for suspended looping coaster owners, Kumbak is offering a new restraint system that not only secures riders safely, but does so with a greater freedom of body movement, particularly with no restraints close to the head to batter the rider while navigating the high-speed turns and inversions.

Ralph S. Alberts Co., Inc. Montoursville, Pa.

Ed Alberts said his company experienced a great IAA-PA Expo last November.

The company, a full-service, multifaceted custom molders company using epoxy, urethane, silicone, aluminum and steel as mold making compounds, celebrated a 50th anniversary with a new booth.

"I felt we had a great response to that and got a lot of exposure," he said. "This was the best year we've had there in the last three, four, or five years. Ride manufacturers felt that way, too, so that was also good."

Alberts said the first week of December that they were swamped, something that typically happens during the amusement industry's off-season.

"We are typically very busy until mid-May, but we are swamped right now."

In addition to having a bustling plant, Alberts said they are also currently in the middle of a very serious research and development project.

"This is a very in-depth project where we are testing and investigating new coatings that chlorine won't bother for those parts going into water rides," he said.

He hopes to soon be in some parks testing their results.

—Pam Sherborne



Timo Klaus (left) and Jeroen Uittenbogaart stand adjacent to an updated restraint system for suspended looping coasters on display at the IAAPA Attractions Expo.

AT/TIM BALDWIN

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Planning for FEC Las Vegas 2014 well underway

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Officials from the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Family Entertainment Center Committee recently released details regarding FEC Las Vegas which will take place March 23-25, 2014.

FEC Las Vegas is a conference for FEC operators, by FEC operators, where the best

and the brightest in the FEC industry gather to solve challenges, build a network, compare stats, and discuss proven strategies and tactics that will help participants take their businesses to the next level.

FEC Las Vegas 2014 is a must-attend event for owners and senior managers, who are looking for ways to build their businesses and increase rev-

EDUCATION

enue. With its theme "Share, Engage, and Grow," conference attendees will learn from industry veterans, other participants, and suppliers who will share information on trends, hot topics, proven programs, and techniques for driving profitability. Attend-

ees will also benefit from the networking and the relationships they will build with other FEC Las Vegas participants.

FEC Las Vegas registration is only open to IAAPA facility members who are currently operating an FEC, as well as event sponsors. It includes two receptions, two dinners, two breakfasts, two lunches, and participation in all educa-

tional sessions and hands-on workshops. The registration fee is \$339, discounted to only \$289 up until Jan. 31.

The host hotel for FEC Las Vegas is the JW Marriott Resort & Spa, 221 North Rampart Blvd., Las Vegas, Nev. 89145. A special room rate of \$135 per night (including resort fee and in-room Internet) is available if the room is booked before March 6, 2014. Additional information about FEC Las Vegas and a link for booking the hotel room at the special rate is available at www.IAAPA.org/FECLasVegas.

Participants in FEC Las Vegas 2014 will also get complimentary registration for Amusement Expo 2014, the annual event for the coin-op and revenue-generating amusement, music, and family entertainment industry. Amusement Expo will take place in Las Vegas March 25-27, immediately following FEC Las Vegas; the event has a new format — a three-day program, featuring one day of education and two days of exhibits. Amusement Expo 2014 will begin with a full day of "Knowledge Sessions" on March 25. These sessions will address timely topics and provide useful information for all who attend. Two full days of exhibit time will follow on March 26 and 27. Additional information about Amusement Expo is available at www.amusementexpo.org.

"The AAMA and AMOA are excited to join Amusement Expo with IAAPA's FEC Las Vegas for a valuable week of education and events in March 2014," said AAMA Executive Vice President John Schultz and AMOA Executive Vice President Jack Kelleher, Amusement Expo co-organizers. "We are working together to provide a great experience for the FEC community and overall amusement industry. The energy and networking from these combined events will help jumpstart participants' 2014."

It was also announced that FEC Las Vegas will be hosted by industry veterans Scott Brown and Matt Heller. The two also participated as presenters at FEC Phoenix in 2013 and lead education sessions at FEC Rookies and Newcomers at IAAPA Attractions Expo 2013.

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Hello Kitty attraction confirmed for U.K.'s Drusillas Park

STORY: Andrew Mellor
 amellor@amusementtoday.com

SUSSEX, England — Drusillas Park in Sussex, England, has confirmed a deal with Japanese company Sanrio that will see the launch of the Hello Kitty Secret Garden at the venue, the first permanent Hello Kitty attraction in the U.K.

In a deal brokered by Sanrio's U.K. agent Fluid World, the attraction will open in the spring of this year and will feature an English garden setting with three rides, including a Hello Kitty car ride, to be supplied by Metallbau Emmeln, a tea cup ride and a reach for the sky hopper ride, both of which will be provided by Zamperla. A Hello Kitty bedroom and beauty parlour as well as regular meet and greet event days during holiday periods will also be included.

Commenting on the project, Drusillas Managing Director Laurence

Smith said: "Drusillas has always been a mix of animals and leisure attractions and we think Hello Kitty and Drusillas are a perfect match and we will be working very hard to ensure that this new area blends in with the rest of the park. Above all we hope that our visitors will appreciate a completely new attraction at the park which will be included in the daily entry price."

The award-winning Drusillas was the first attraction in Europe to have a permanent Thomas the Tank Engine (the leading boys' character brand in the U.K.) train ride and with Hello Kitty the park will also feature the U.K.'s number one girls' brand. To be situated in the area of the park that runs from the Eden's Eye Maze up to the bandstand and main office, the new attraction will be the company's largest ever investment and is expected to top £1m. (U.S. \$1.6 million).



Drusillas Park Managing Directors Laurence and Christine Smith with Hello Kitty. COURTESY DRUSILLAS PARK

The Vikings are coming to Djurs Sommerland in 2014

STORY: Andrew Mellor
 amellor@amusementtoday.com

NIMTOFTE, Demark — Another themed area is due to open at Scandinavia's largest summerland this year when Djurs Sommerland in Denmark debuts its latest themed area Vikingeland.

Featuring two new family rides and imaginative Viking theming, the park is investing a total of €2.6 million (U.S. \$3.5 million) in its latest themed area which will cover 20,000 square meters (215,000 square feet). The larger of the two rides is Drageskibet, a 13 meter (42.5 foot) long, Huss Park Attractions-built Viking ship situated in a lake and decorated with carved dragon heads, Viking sails and colorful shields. The ship swings to a height of 20 meters (65.5 feet) and is linked to the

Djurs Sommerland's new Vikingeland will feature two new rides, including Drageskibet, a swinging Viking ship.
 COURTESY
 DJURS SOMMERLAND



shore by a gangway. With 45 seats, it has a capacity of 700 riders per hour and each ride lasts four minutes.

The second of the new rides is Vikingetårne, built by Sunkid, which consists of two towers on which guests have

to hoist themselves to the top by pulling on a rope as they sit in their seats. The height of the structures is eight meters (26 feet) and the hourly capacity is 540.

"A ride like Drageskibet is great fun and really gets the

butterflies fluttering in your stomach," comments Henrik B. Nielsen, CEO of Djurs Sommerland. "It's a hugely popular classic in all big amusement parks and I'm sure it will raise a lot of laughs and cheers from our guests. Placing

Drageskibet in the middle of a lake in a giant Viking universe completes the experience. I'm certain that it will attract a great many families with children."

As part of this latest investment in the park, the whole area will be decorated with a range of visual effects to place guests in a universe where brave Vikings rule. At the same time, the Thor's Hammer roller coaster will also be integrated into the area.

The new section will be the latest in a series of large investments in themed attractions made at Djurs Sommerland. Since 2008, the park has invested more than €33 million (almost U.S. \$45 million) in new, uniquely themed rides, a strategy that has helped it achieve more than 40 percent growth in visitor numbers since then.

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Parque Warner Madrid to add waterpark

STORY: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

MADRID, Spain — Parque Warner, part of the Parque Reunidos group, is to open a 30,000-square-meter (seven acre) waterpark in June this year.

The park, situated close to Madrid, will invest €8.5 million (U.S. \$11.5 million) in the new Warner Beach facility which will further diversify the entertainment offering at the venue. The waterpark will be unique in Spain with theming taken from the Warner catalog and include characters and décor based on such well-known IPs as Looney Tunes, The Flintstones, Scooby Doo and Hanna Barbera.



With a daily capacity of 4,000, Warner Beach will feature a wide range of attractions and facilities, including two wave pools — one for adults and another for children — a lazy river, two waterplay areas, a solarium with real sand beach, a retail outlet and two restaurants.

The waterpark, which will be open from June to September, will be built behind the DC Super Heroes World area of the park and access will be via the main park with no separate entrance, with guests purchasing a combined ticket at an extra cost to current ticket prices. The waterpark expansion means Parque Warner will have six main themed areas.

The park's Director General Jose Asenjo Vera noted: "The new themed water area is the perfect addition (to the park) and meets the main desire of our visitors with regards to future expansions and the type of attractions



Parque Warner's new waterpark will use theming based on a variety of well-known characters from the Warner Bros. catalogue. The waterpark is scheduled to open in June and is designed to accommodate a daily capacity of 4,000 guests. Suppliers had not been announced at presstime. COURTESY PARQUE WARNER

they want." He also noted that the investment shows a clear commitment to the park and a commitment from the group as a whole to creating

some of "the best parks in the industry."

Parque Warner Madrid is home to 36 attractions spread throughout its various

themed areas which include Hollywood Boulevard, Warner Bros. Studios, DC Super Heroes World, Cartoon Village and Far West. Each

day guests can enjoy 58 live performances, including 18 shows, parades and different animations aimed at all the family.



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Interlink to play key role in development of major new Nigerian leisure destination

Multi-zone theme park area will offer a range of experiences for all

OLERI, Nigeria — Theme park ride specialist Interlink has been contracted to play a key role in the development of a brand new resort attraction in Nigeria which, among other responsibilities, will see the company procuring 27 amusement rides of various descriptions for the project.

The new Delta Leisure Resorts will be one of the most spectacular theme parks and prestigious leisure destinations in the southern hemisphere and the first of its kind in West Africa. The theme park will be situated at Oleri, Udu LG, Warri City, Delta State, and the wildlife park at Ogwashi-Uku, Asaba, capital of Delta State, Nigeria.

Interlink is involved in the development of three of the theme park zones and, in addition to bringing in a host of children's, family and thrill rides from other manufacturers and suppliers, the company will also be

providing a brand new Super Flume ride and Panoramic Tower from its own product portfolio.

"As well as supplying two of our own rides for the project," explained Interlink Managing Director John Hudd, "we will also be acting as consultants on the project and have been contracted to source all the theme park rides, along with being responsible for the breakdown of these in the case of used rides, shipping, build-up, ride operator training and ride maintenance.

"It's clearly a major task, but our past experience and our knowledge of the market will enable us to provide Delta Leisure Resorts with an excellent range of high quality rides and attractions which will be key elements in the overall offering of the venue and which will ultimately be vital to its success."

The contract between Interlink and Delta Leisure Resorts was officially signed at IAAPA Attractions Expo in Orlando, Florida, in November when Princess



Pictured at the contract signing between Delta Leisure Resorts and Interlink are (from left): Kevin Howe, Oceans Designs Ltd., Princess Abiodun Oyefusi, managing director of Delta Leisure Resorts, and Interlink's Mike Anderson and John Hudd. COURTESY INTERLINK

Abiodun Oyefusi, managing director of the project, visited the event to conclude contracts with several suppliers.

The Delta Leisure Resorts master plan is a mixed-use

development consisting of a theme park, based upon international themes arranged around a retail hub, two hotel complexes with associated residential villages, multiplex

cinema, casino and sports complex, creating a range of experiences for visitors of all ages.

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★ **NJAA SUPERSTORM SANDY UPDATE** — PAGE 33

Tuesday Oct 22, 2013

★ **FEATURED TODAY: Holiday plans**

Even though summer on the 2014 season will total \$8 million, the park and a host of "Since 2006, when we section, we've received and name it the Mayfly. "We chose the anniversary that our new ride for attraction, which will be swinging in an arc 54 ft.

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★ **New Boardwalk**

It took longer than expected, Undertow, despite Undertow, manufactured summer opening. However, considerably, and a long opening. Boardwalk spokesman Kri week. The Boardwalk plan when the park goes into

[Featured Story](#)

★ **Iconic Kiddieland Carousel Heading To Auction**

Chicagoans whose first amusement park experiences happened especially interested to know the carousel from the former M will be heading to the auction block next month. Donley Auction Services will be selling the 88-year-old merry-go-bidder as part of a 300-item auction Nov. 16 at Donley's Will. The carousel was built in 1925 for Kiddieland by the Philadelphia

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IRM acquires, donates Herschell kiddie coaster for Bell's reboot

IRM plans donation of equipment to National Roller Coaster Museum

STORY: Scott Rutherford
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

TULSA, Okla. — To mark its 35th anniversary, International Rides Management (IRM) recently purchased a 1958 Allan Herschell steel kiddie roller coaster from Fun Spot, the amusement park that has been shuttered since 2008. The company's intent is to have the ride refurbished by the Bell family in Tulsa, Oklahoma in an effort to reboot their beloved amusement park, which was closed and dismantled in 2006 when the Tulsa County Fairgrounds refused to renew the park's long-standing lease.

AT spoke with IRM Vice President Sam Shurgott about the acquisition and plans for the ride. "I purchased the Safari Kiddie Coaster from Fun Spot in Angola, Indiana. The ride has been SBNO [standing but not operating]

since 2008. International Rides Management visited the park after they shut down, and the Allan Herschell coaster was in very good condition. After several discussions, the owner, Ralph Trine, gave me a price that was agreeable to both parties," he said.

"IRM has been assisting Bell's Amusement Park in several capacities including helping the family get their park back in operation, which has been closed since 2006," continued Shurgott. "Robby Bell has now placed several kiddie rides at a year-round flea market in the Tulsa area [Swick's Flea Market] with hopes of re-establishing a major park in the future. IRM wanted to do something special for our 35th Anniversary, and we feel by acquiring this coaster, we can jump-start [Bell's] return to a major park again."

The coaster was dismantled at Fun Spot and transported in November to a location where Robby Bell is currently overseeing its



To celebrate its 35th anniversary, International Rides Management (IRM) acquired a 1958 Allan Herschell steel kiddie roller coaster from Indiana's now-closed Fun Spot. IRM Vice President Sam Shurgott then presented the ride to Robby Bell who is overhauling it and plans to operate it along with several other rides in Tulsa, Oklahoma this summer. This goodwill gesture by IRM was done to help jump-start the effort to rebuild Bell's Amusement Park. The Safari Kiddie Coaster is pictured here SBNO at Fun Spot.

COURTESY IRM

cleaning and repairs. Once the overhaul is complete, it will sport a new name and paint job. The coaster will anchor the Bell's' kiddie section at

Swick's Flea Market (www.saturdayfleamarket.com) while several larger rides are being prepared to make their appearance this summer.

AT caught up with Robby Bell who gave us an idea of his plans for the new coaster addition and what his family is facing as they attempt to rebuild their park, which was a beloved institution in the Tulsa area for 55 summers. "We're really glad to be working with IRM on this and are very appreciative of what they've done for us. My family has always had a great relationship with them going all the way back to Jim Palmer, Peter Zwickau and now Sam Shurgott and the guys. They are just really good folks. We're kind of repeating history with this newest addition to the Bell's lineup. This will be our third [Herschell] Little Dipper. My grandfather started Bell's with one, and then we had another that was removed around 1975 when we built the big Arrow log flume."

As for rebuilding Bell's Amusement Park, Robby said: "The advantage I have over my dad and my grandfather

► See BELL'S, page 20

Baynum completes re-painting of Santa Cruz's Giant Dipper

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — The high-flying artists at Baynum Painting have completed yet another impressive project with the re-painting of the historic Giant Dipper wooden roller coaster at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.

Utilizing VOC-compliant 100 percent acrylics from California's Frazee Paints, Baynum used Brilliant White for the Dipper's main structure while the top and underside of the track and walkways were painted Safety Red. The track itself was painted Black

► See BAYNUM, page 20



Baynum Painting has completed yet another impressive project with the re-painting of the historic Giant Dipper wooden roller coaster at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. It took a crew of 15 men a full eight weeks to complete the project, which consisted of applying approximately 3,000 gallons of paint with brush and roller. COURTESY BAYNUM PAINTING



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►BELL'S

Continued from page 19

is we already have all of our equipment bought and paid for as well as a tremendous history and name recognition in this community. On this site, I have a Mini Enterprise, Eyerly Spider, our 1954 Arrow Merry-Go-Round ... all those rides are there; they just need a little TLC before we set them up. I'm basically a one-man show. I still have a couple of my original maintenance guys who come and help me when they can. So setting a date when we'll have all these rides up and running is almost impossible. It depends on how tired I am," Robby said with a laugh. "What we have running right now are two Hampton kiddie flats (Car and Motorcycle) and two Venture rides (Crittter Track and Lady Bug) and an inflatable tidal wave slide. Our Tilt-a-Whirl's rehab is about 85 percent complete. It will probably be up and running before the Little Dipper this coming season.

"I'm considering this to be Stage One of the Bell's comeback. When that's up and operating, we'll have somewhere between 10-14 rides along with an 18-hole mini-golf course and a concession stand, which will operate year-round," he continued. "Once that's done, we'll be out of space in the front. Then, myself and the owner of the property (Jeff Schwickerath) will figure out what Stage Two will be. At this point we haven't invested a lot of time and money in infrastructure since these rides don't really require that."

When asked if this is the spot where the full-blown Bell's — along with their signature wooden roller coaster, Zingo — will be reborn, Robby said: "Like any place, there are pros and cons. It's just something that will take time and money to develop. But I think this place could possible work as a the future home for Bell's. Time will tell."

Shurgott commented on amusement industry history and his and IRM's efforts in that arena: "After over 20

years in the park industry, I have seen much generosity from many owners including the Morey family where I am employed also full-time," he said. "With this purchase, I was also able to acquire an entire second set of [Herschell kiddie coaster] track and structure, and an extra coaster car. Parts of the second coaster will be set aside for a possible expansion of the ride at Bell's while several other pieces of track and supports, along with the car, will eventually make its way to the National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives storage facility at Larson International in Texas."

►BAYNUM

Continued from page 19

to hide the grease that builds up over time.

According to Dan Adams of Baynum Painting, it took a dedicated crew of 15 men a full eight weeks to complete the project, which consisted of applying approximately 3,000 gallons of paint with brush and roller. "The statistic that we are most proud of is that this massive project was completed without a single injury or safety incident," said Adams. "Considering that the entire coaster had to be manually climbed and rigged without any lifts, mechanical scaffold or staging, it is the single most notable accomplishment of the project. Additionally, much of the overall success of this project has to be given to Dave Jessen and the maintenance staff of Santa Cruz Beach and Boardwalk for their efforts in coordinating the project to be completed while still protecting their neighbors and tourists who always have access to the boardwalk and bike path that runs along the East Side of the coaster. The careful planning in advance to assist us with controlling the paint chips from contaminating the environment was also a vital part of the cleaning phase."

—Scott Rutherford

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Singing Mushrooms returning to Kings Dominion in 2014

Garner Holt overseeing design and re-fabrication

DOSWELL, Va. — Kings Dominion recently announced the iconic Singing Mushrooms will make their grand return in the Spring of 2014 as part of the kick-off to the park's 40th Celebration. This fan-favorite that families came to know and love, will feature the original four colorful mushrooms along with the infamous frog, all singing to their favorite barbershop songs.

"When Kings Dominion announced its 40th Celebration earlier this fall, the response was overwhelming that our guests wanted to see the popular Singing Mushrooms brought back," said Kings Dominion's Vice President and General Manager Pat Jones. "As an employee and fan of Kings Dominion since the 70s, I am excited to see one of my personal favorites return to the park for a new generation of guests to enjoy."

Garner Holt Productions, Inc. (GHP) from San Bernardino, California was chosen to assist in the re-fabrication of the Singing Mushrooms. GHP is the world's largest designer and manufacturer of animatronics for theme parks, museums, dining and retail

locations. The company has built nearly 4,000 animatronic figures, hundreds of animated props and show action systems. Most recently, they worked on a restoration of the Timber Mountain Log Ride at Kings Dominion's sister park, Knott's Berry Farm.

GHP and Kings Dominion are working together to maintain the rich history of the Singing Mushrooms, but also add 21st century animatronic technology to it. The new Singing Mushrooms will have more character to the figures with subtle additional functions not seen in the original animatronics. The Singing Mushrooms will be located in the newly re-themed Candy Apple Grove section of the park.

Kings Dominion's 40th Celebration will begin when the park opens for its 40th season on Saturday, April 5, 2014. Guests can reminisce during the off-season by visiting www.kingsdominion.com/celebration. The park's 40th Celebration Website includes historical facts, photos and videos and the latest announcements regarding this exciting celebration.



Kings Dominion has announced that the iconic Singing Mushrooms (above) will make their grand return in the Spring of 2014. This fan-favorite will feature the original four colorful mushrooms along with the infamous frog (left), all singing to their favorite barbershop songs.

COURTESY KINGS DOMINION



FAST TRACK

COMPILED: Scott Rutherford,
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

Walt Disney's birthplace, a home located on Chicago's northwest side, has been sold to two Hollywood animation producers who plan to turn the two-flat into a museum. **Dina Benadon** and **Brent Young**, partners in Hollywood-based **Super 78**, a computer-graphics production company, have purchased the home for an undisclosed amount and plan to restore it to its original form. The new homeowners, veterans in the amusement-park industry, run a company that develops content for theme park rides, attractions, museums and science centers.

Holiday World's Lake Rudolph Campground & RV Resort, presented a check for \$11,300 to **Jeremy Evans**, executive director of the **Ronald McDonald House** in Evansville, Indiana. The monetary contribution is the result of a partnership with McDonald's Restaurants. Each Christmas season, Lake Rudolph hosts the Santa Claus Land of Lights Family Christmas Light Adventure. Discount coupons for the drive-through light show are offered at participating McDonald's and a portion of proceeds benefits Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC). During the past four years, RMHC has received over \$38,000 in contributions from Lake Rudolph and the Santa Claus Land of Lights.

Astana in Russia plans to begin construction on a zoo in 2015. *TengriNews* reports that that construction would take 29 months (almost 2.5 years). Up to 49 different species of animals will be presented in the zoo, mainly from North America, South America and Africa. Each animal pavilion will have a special regulated climate.

Woodland Bowl, Indianapolis, Ind., recently opened its newest **Pirate Quest Laser Tag** arena (www.lasertagworld.com) and pirate themed **Lazer Frenzy Laser Maze** (www.lazerfrenzy.com) designed by **Creative Works** to boost its arcade and bowling area. The multi-level arena exhibits amazing 3D black light murals and props. Players are taken onto a salty pirate's port surrounded by candle lit halls and burning pirate ships. Woodland Bowl Pirates' Quest features Zone Laser Tag's equipment for interactive play. The new laser tag and Lazer Frenzy themed environments tie in perfectly with **Woodland Bowl Pirates' Cove Miniature Golf** course with 18 holes that includes waterfalls and a pirate ship.

Shamu Stadium, home of **SeaWorld Orlando's** iconic killer-whale show, will be closed for about three months early this year while its main pool is repainted and the clear panels that separate the animals from the audience are replaced, theme-park officials said Monday. Production of the "One Ocean" show, which debuted in 2011, will be suspended in early January with an expected return in early April.

Arabian Nights, the Kissimmee, Fla., dinner show with performing horses and a royal storyline, closed at the end of December after 25 years of entertaining tourists and residents. According to the owner, the attraction's revenue could no longer support the kind of show he wanted to present. Over the years, the attraction, which opened in 1988, has presented 10,000 performances for 10 million visitors, Miller said. The final performance was on New Year's Eve.

Manormortis, located at **Scare Kingdom Screem Park** in Lancashire, U.K., is Britain's newest permanent award-winning scare attraction. Created for Scare Kingdom Screem Park by European scare entertainment specialists **AtmosFEAR! Scare Entertainment** who have created over 100 temporary and seasonal scare entertainment projects in their thirteen year history. Manormortis is the third permanent scare attraction designed and built by the company (**Sunken Village of the Damned** in Cornwall and **The House of Fear** in Greece, being the first two), a fourth, named **Labirinto** is due to open in Portugal in early 2014. The attraction is a 4800-square-foot classic haunted house style attraction which combines European scare entertainment storytelling with classic American style impact scares across 24 themed rooms.

The **Arp-Hansen Hotel Group** has announced another partnership with the amusement park group, **Tivoli**, to build a new themed business hotel with 288 bedrooms in Copenhagen, Denmark. The pair's first hotel was the **Tivoli Hotel and Congress Center**, which claims it has welcomed a million guests and visitors since it opened in 2010. The new hotel, designed by Danish architect **Kim Utzon**, will be ready to welcome guests in 2016 and will join the existing hotel.

The newest themed airplane in **Alaska Airlines'** fleet features **Cars Land** residents Mater, Lightning McQueen, Guido and Luigi. The colorful Boeing 737-800, named **Adventure of Disneyland Resort**, is the fifth Disney-themed airplane in partnership between Alaska Airlines and the **Disneyland Resort**.

The aircraft will fly throughout the carrier's 65-city network, and recently joined the fleet on a flight from Seattle to Orange County. Joining other passengers on the inaugural flight were four **Make-A-Wish** children from Washington and Alaska, ages 3 to 7, and their families, who spent several days at the Disneyland Resort.

WestJet, a Canadian low-cost carrier, has unveiled its newest custom-painted aircraft called the **Magic Plane** featuring Mickey Mouse in his famous role, Sorcerer Mickey. The custom-painted Boeing 737-800 series aircraft was unveiled in Calgary after teams worked around the clock for nearly a month adding 36 different colors to the outside of the Magic Plane. The actual design was created by WestJet and **Disney Parks & Resorts** (Canada) to tell a story from tail to nose.

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Knott's Berry Farm details 2014 improvements

Camp Snoopy, Calico Mine Ride get makeovers

BUENA PARK, Calif. — Knott's Berry Farm has released details of two major projects for 2014 that continue reinvestment in the park's rich history and heritage. Camp Snoopy celebrates its 30th Anniversary with the revitalization of the entire land of High Sierra fun. The classic Calico Mine Ride, Knott's first major attraction and theme park industry icon, will undergo an all-encompassing refurbishment complete with new state-of-the-art animatronic figures and enhanced scenery. Camp Snoopy's area beautification and the revitalized Calico Mine Ride are slated to open early summer of 2014.

"Camp Snoopy and Calico Mine Ride have delighted guests for decades and are classics that families come back to time and again to experience together" said Raffi Kaprelyan, Knott's Berry Farm's vice president and general

manager. "The revitalization of these areas will once again demonstrate our commitment to Knott's heritage and will preserve these experiences for a new generation of guests to enjoy."

Camp Snoopy, home of the Peanuts Gang, has welcomed guests since its grand opening on July 1, 1983. In honor of the land's 30th anniversary, the High Sierra mountains camp theming will be enhanced throughout. Thirty years ago the five-acre nature wonderland was created by the Knott family to be a carefree place where nature, adventure and imagination come to life, and in 2014 it will undergo a number of exciting updates including new rides and restoration of the entire area with the original inspiration in mind.

Additionally in 2014, Knott's Calico Mine Ride will undergo complete refurbishment. The Calico Mine Ride, Knott's first major ride, opened in Ghost Town in November 1960 and was quickly recognized as one of the world's most immersive dark rides. The beloved attraction, designed



by industry pioneer Bud Hurlbut, carries riders aboard ore cars on a realistic adventure through dimly lit tunnels of a working gold mine. The winding journey takes passengers to underground lakes, waterfalls, caverns filled with thousands of mysterious formations, chambers filled with steaming, bubbling pots and geysers. At several points in the trip, riders

find themselves along the rim of a 65 foot deep and 90 foot wide scene filled with dozens of animated miners trying to strike it rich.

The Calico Mine Train attraction stands seven stories tall. Every year over one million guests take part in the eight-minute journey. The mountain required over 275 tons of steel to complete and features

For the 2014 season, Knott's Berry Farm continues to reinvest in the park's rich history and heritage. Camp Snoopy will celebrate its 30th Anniversary with the revitalization of the entire land of High Sierra including new rides. The classic Calico Mine Ride, Knott's first major attraction and theme park industry icon, will undergo an all-encompassing refurbishment complete with new state-of-the-art animatronic figures and enhanced scenery. COURTESY KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

a hidden themed queue that snakes upward to the loading station, out of sight of onlookers. The design preserves the impressive forced perspective of the mountain range, which is based on the sites in the authentic ghost town at Calico in California's Mojave Desert.

In January 2014, the attraction will close for a comprehensive restoration by Knott's Berry Farm's design and production team. The project will be another partnership with Garner Holt Productions, Inc., (GHP) the team that brought award winning new enhancements to the Timber Mountain Log Ride in 2013 with lifelike animatronics and stunning show scenes.

"It is our company's top priority to preserve and enhance the original story of a working gold mine deep in the heart of the Old West" said Garner Holt, GHP's founder and president. "The Calico Mine Ride will be filled with lifelike sounds and motion, while maintaining the uniquely authentic feel of the attraction as designed by Knott's and

► See KNOTT'S, page 26



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► **KNOTT'S**

Continued from page 25

industry legend Bud Hurlbut."

The iconic attraction's renovation will include the addition of over 50 new state-of-the-art animatronic figures, all new audio and theme lighting system, and special effects that will capture the imagination of would-be miners as they journey deep into the winding caverns of the attraction.

In 1954, Knott's Berry Farm founder, Walter Knott, delivered an open letter to his employees in which he wrote "You know, we never fully enjoy the things we have until we share them with those we love."

Next summer, Knott's invites the world to come back to Camp Snoopy and Ghost Town to enjoy these new adventures together.

Skycoaster celebrates 20 years of flying in 2014

STEVENSVILLE, Md. — "Skycoaster continues to be extremely popular," said Mark Rosenzweig, Skycoaster's managing director. One of the industry's most iconic attractions, Skycoaster will celebrate 20 years of operating in amusement parks in 2014. The first park to take the plunge was Kennywood, in 1994. This installation stands 180 feet tall and allows riders to swing out over the Lagoon at the center of the park.

"In 2013 we worked to open three unique installations around the globe: in the United States, Australia, and Mexico," said Rosenzweig. "The first to thrill riders was the 250-foot model at Fun Spot America. This was a refurb-

bished model that originally operated at the MGM Grand Adventures Theme Park in Las Vegas. As one of the largest attractions along I-Drive it has forever changed the Orlando skyline," he said.

The second Skycoaster was a brand-new 250-foot model that was erected at the Wet'n'Wild Sydney waterpark. "This ride's structure was erected this past July and they are building the rest of the waterpark around it. This was the first of our rides to utilize a pipe structure, which is the next step in the evolution of Skycoaster design. It takes less time to assemble and offers less wind resistance than any of our previous models," said Rosenzweig. "In ad-

dition, we are now offering single Skycoasters with this structure and the new half arch design allows them to be built with only two foundations," he noted.

Early next winter the third Skycoaster is expected to open. A custom monopole design, it will be perched on the edge of Mexico's world-famous Copper Canyon. Located at Parque de Aventura Barrancas del Cobre in Chihuahua, Mexico, this Skycoaster will swing out over a canyon floor that is 50 percent deeper than the Grand Canyon. Everyone at Skycoaster feels it will offer one of the best thrills on the planet.

With both new and refurbished units available, the fu-

ture continues to look bright for Skycoaster. "It really has been thrilling," said Rosenzweig. "Between the new structural design, 'under the hood' improvements like electric winches, and the annual Skycoaster University safety seminar, Skycoaster continues to improve. We have the best thrill ride experience in the world and work every day to ensure that Skycoaster owners feel we offer the best experience, also."

Skycoaster belongs to the Ride Entertainment Group of Companies. The Ride Entertainment Group (www.RideEntertainment.com) is a leader in providing thrilling attractions to the entertainment industry.



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ProSlide Taumata Racer coming to Aquatica San Diego

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — For those who prefer life in the fast lane, the new Taumata Racer high-speed racing water slide at Aquatica Sea-World's Waterpark will zoom riders down a 375-foot slide, around a 180-degree swooping turn, and in and out of tunnels before racing them across the finish line.

Less than five months after opening Aquatica, located in Chula Vista, the park is making another splash by adding the new thrill ride. Taumata Racer, which will rise nearly 60 feet, will be located between Walhalla Wave and Kata's Kookaburra Cove on the northwest side of the park.

"We're thrilled to bring Taumata Racer to Aquatica," said David Cromwell, the waterpark's vice president. "This new mat-racer water slide is a unique blend of competitive racing and high-speed thrills. It will be a welcome addition to the park and certainly an experience that families and friends will be able to enjoy together. This is exactly the

► See AQUATICA, page 28



Shown as a backdrop to Aquatica's existing slides, the 60-foot-tall Taumata Racer will have guests doing a complete 180-degree turn before racing side-by-side to the finish. COURTESY AQUATICA SAN DIEGO

White Water Branson adding \$1.7 Million KaPau Plummet



The translucent KaPau Plummet will not only thrill riders but spectators as well as they watch thrillseekers rocket through the tube. COURTESY WHITE WATER BRANSON

BRANSON, Mo. — When designers and developers with Silver Dollar City Attractions set out to create a new 2014 ride for White Water, there was one mandate: The new ride must be "The Biggest Thrill in White Water History." The concept began with the idea of a heart-pounding, drop-floor plunge. Now in initial stages of construction, the \$1.7 million KaPau Plummet will open in Spring 2014 with two 240-foot slides, each launching riders from a drop-floor into a 70-degree plunge followed by a spiraling loop, promising to far exceed the thrill factor of any water ride ever built at the 13-acre tropically-themed water park located in Branson, Missouri.

Those brave enough to dare the drop will experience a heart-pumping, breathtaking thrill that begins at the

top of a 40-foot tower. Two encapsulated slides are the starting points for loading brave riders into a launch capsule. Once inside, the countdown begins: 3...2...1 KAPAU! The bottom of each slide drops out, creating a rider free fall at 70 degrees, speeding at 26 feet per second into a looping 240-foot translucent waterslide before the final splashdown. Spectators will be able to watch the riders' rocket-like plunge and see them spiral through the translucent loops.

"The AquaLaunch trap door builds anticipation for an incredible drop below," said Cory Roebuck, White Water director of operations, who explains 'kapau' is a slang U.S. surfer term to mean the next big wave or the next big thing, pronounced KA-POW. "Never before

► See BRANSON, page 28

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Norton to conduct auction of Pirates Island

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — Norton of Michigan Auctioneers has been selected to conduct the auction of the Pirates Island waterpark in Kalamazoo, Michigan on January 9 beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The indoor waterpark closed its doors in February 2012 after less than two years in business. Now, a court order has been issued to sell all the equipment at a public auction.

The auction will include two slides from ProSlide, pumps, UV filters, tubes, office equipment, décor, food equipment, tables and related décor and much more. See Norton Auction ad on page 30.

Norton of Michigan President, Darin Spieth had this to say about the auction: "The park was only open for two years so the equipment is in excellent condition and would be great back up or primary equipment for any



This view shows one of the two slides, and filters (inset) scheduled to be auctioned from Pirates Island on Jan. 9. COURTESY NORTON AUCTIONS

new or existing facility."

Pirates Island is located in the SWAT Athletic facility in Texas Township, Kalamazoo

County, Michigan. Call or e-mail for information at: (517) 279-9063 or dan@nortonauctioneers.com.

►AQUATICA

Continued from page 27

type of attraction that will make Aquatica an even more exciting waterpark."

Taumata Racer, manufactured by ProSlide of Ontario, Canada, will feature six side-by-side lanes. Park guests will speed down the steep hill on a mat head first. The minimum height requirement is 42 inches.

"In its first season, Aquatica lived up to the expectations of the SeaWorld brand," said Chula Vista Mayor Cheryl Cox. "The company's continued investment in the guest experience will produce an exciting new attraction for visitors next year and demonstrates SeaWorld's long-term commitment to business in Chula Vista."

Construction on Taumata Racer, which will join HooRoo Run as one of

Aquatica's fastest water rides, was scheduled to begin in November. The new racing slide will make its debut to the public when the park opens Memorial Day weekend in 2014.

Aquatica San Diego, a lushly landscaped waterpark, combines up-close animal experiences, high-speed thrills and the amenities of a beach-side resort. Among dozens of slides and rides at this South Seas-themed waterpark is Big Surf Shores, one of the largest wave pools in Southern California, and Loggerhead Lane where guests can float in an inner tube along a 1,250-foot lazy river. Caribbean flamingos and freshwater turtles round out the Aquatica experience, as only SeaWorld can.

SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment inspires millions, through the power of entertainment, to celebrate, connect with and care for the

natural world. The company has been creating innovative entertainment experiences that blend imagination with nature for more than 50 years and is best known for its 11 U.S. theme parks, attractions that hosted more than 24 million guests in 2012 and include the beloved SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place brands. The parks offer guests a variety of up-close experiences, from animal encounters that invite exploration and appreciation of the natural world, to thrilling rides and spectacular shows. In 2011, SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment began expanding its popular brands into media and entertainment platforms to connect people to nature and animals through movies, television, and digital media; plus began developing new lines of licensed consumer products.

►BRANSON

Continued from page 27

has White Water had such a thrilling ride. KaPau Plummet will literally take your breath away in an awesome plunge."

Facts for KaPau Plummet:

- Tower height – 40 feet
- Speed – 26 feet per second
- Two translucent slides,

3 feet in diameter

- Length of flume slides: 243.8 feet and 246.2 feet

- AquaLaunch capsules with drop-floor plunge

- Capacity – 360 riders per hour with 2 slides

- Waterflow – 1,000 gallons per minute

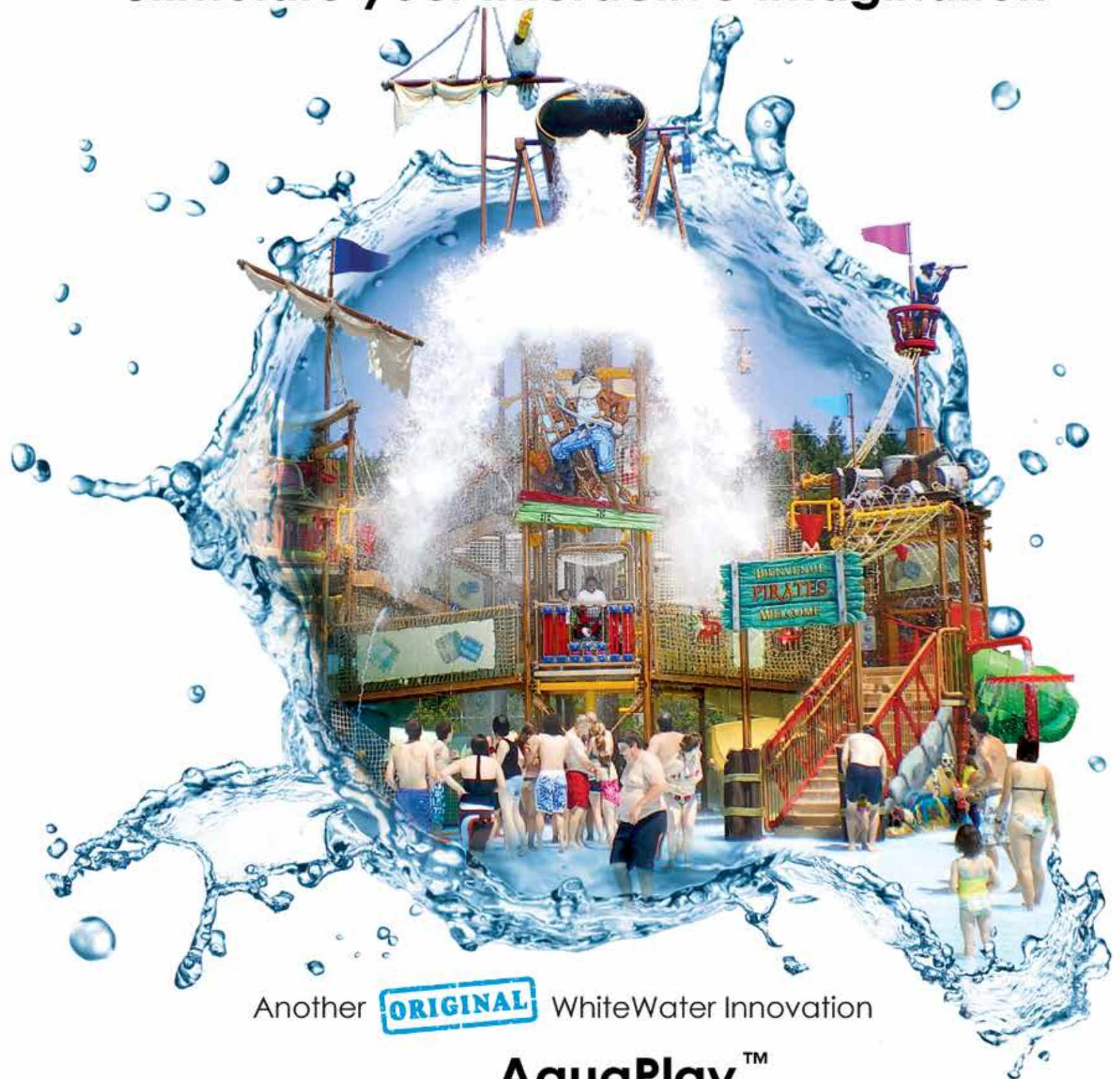
- Manufacturer – White-Water West, Ltd., British Columbia, Canada

- Budget: \$1.7 million

- Opening expected mid-May 2014

White Water, owned and operated by Silver Dollar City Attractions/Herschend Family Entertainment Corporation, offers rides ranging from mild to wild with a dozen major attractions including rides, slides & play areas. White Water is open mid-May through early September.

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PUMPS, FILTERS & RELATED: (3) Emperor Aquatics UV Filters; (2) National Line Mod. NFS-34-A-193 High Rate Sand Filters; (2) National Line Mod. NFS-34-A-153 High Rate Sand Filters; (2) Pentair Mini Max 100 Pool Heaters; (2) National Line Fluid Straining System 650 US gpm; (7) Triton II High Rate Sand Filters; (5) Siemens Strantrol Set Point NX Chemical Controllers; Jandy Model K1100 Electronic Water Fill System; (2) Pentair ¾ hp Pumps; (2) Pentair 3 hp Pumps; (2) Pentair 2 hp Pumps; Hayward Booster Pump; (2) Baldor 10 hp Pumps; Baldor 20 hp Pump; Misc 7.5, 5, 25, and 15 hp pumps; (6) Pulsar Chlorinators; Viking Pro Drain Chief, Mod. PDF; Altivar Adjustable Speed Drive Controllers; MR Steam Commercial Steam Generator, Mod. Lu125.

POOL RELATED: (3) Vinyl Palm Tree Umbrellas; (4) Binks Water Spray Guns; (2) Portable Basketball Nets; (8) Assorted SS Hand Rails; Pool Cleaning Supplies.

LOCKERS: (14) Penco Eight Door Lockers; (5) 15 Door Penco Lockers.

BENCHES/TABLES & CHAIRS: 12' Wood Picnic Table; (7) 32"x48" Tables; (12) 32"x32" Tables; (28) Metal Framed Chairs; (80) Tan Stacking Chairs; (2) Octagon Wood Picnic Tables; Wood Benches; 9' Octagon 12 Seat Picnic Table; (4) 6' Wood Picnic Tables.

LIFESAVING: Backboard; Life Guard Tubes; Rings; Poles.

OFFICE: Two Unit Modular Office System; Assorted Desks; Office Chairs.

DÉCOR: 11'x36' Elevated Composite Deck with Thatch Roof (Buyer Responsible for Fire Suppression Removal Costs) HD Rope Décor; Rope Netting; Faux Plants; (6) Bamboo Ceiling Fans; Wood Barrel Trash Cans.

MISC: 15'x14' U Shaped Glass Showcases; Animated Pirate and Skeleton Life-size figures; 4' Step Ladder; Sony CD Player; Mop Bucket; Cleaning Supplies; (60+/-) Youth Lifejackets; Misc. Water Toys/Noodles; (40+) Clear Single and Double Tubes.

FOOD RELATED: TT Cookie Oven; TT Pizza Oven; 8' SS Triple Sink; 5' SS Shelf; 16" SS Hand Sink.

PIRATES ISLAND WATERPARK

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**NEWSPLASH**COMPILED: Jeffrey L. Seifert, jseifert@amusementtoday.com

To help boost attendance during the fall and early winter season, **Aquatica Orlando** was offering substantial savings on a single-day admission through December 31, 2013. Guests were able to purchase date-specific admission to Aquatica Orlando starting at only \$19. The tickets were only available online. Each transaction was limited to six tickets, but by planning early, guests were able to take advantage of this great offer. Tickets had to be purchased at least 24 hours in advance of the discount and limited quantities of the \$19 tickets per day were available.

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, may seem like an unlikely place for a surf club, but the wave pool at the **World Waterpark** inside the **West Edmonton Mall**, is capable of producing waves suitable for surfing. West Edmonton Mall offers surf lessons at World Waterpark to guests ages 10 and up and a surf club for those who want to improve their surfing skills and fitness and surf year-round in a safe, controlled environment. The three to four foot waves are similar to those found on smaller ocean beaches. The waves come in sets of five, with the first one being the smallest and the fourth usually being the longest and strongest. Safety is the club's No. 1 concern, the instructors say, so everyone must take a lesson before they can surf. A private, 90-minute session for up to eight people is \$60 each. The drop-in fee to surf with the club is \$30.

Polin Waterparks and Pool Systems was recently named as one of The Turkey100, a prestigious list of "game-changing entrepreneurs" identified by AllWorld Network.

AllWorld cited Polin among the businesses referred to as some of the world's fastest-growing young companies that "are pioneering solutions in old and new industries." Polin has become one of the world's leading companies in the design, manufacture and installation of waterparks, waterslides and water-play attractions. Specifically, Polin has been a pioneer in the advancement and application of closed-molded manufacturing technology in waterslide development. Its forward-thinking innovation has led to the firm expanding its operations throughout Asia to Europe, China, Canada, Australia, the United States and beyond.

The list of honorees were announced during the AllWorld Turkey100 Awards Gala, which took place during the Fifth Izmir Economic Congress on Oct. 30. The event was opened by Turkey's President and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoan and hosted by AllWorld Network, the Ministry of Commerce, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), and the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey.

Hawaiian Falls recently broke ground on yet another new waterpark, this time in White Settlement, Texas, just west of Fort Worth.

Hawaiian Falls CEO David Busch joined White Settlement Mayor Jerry Burns and city and business leaders Tuesday, December 3, to break ground on North Texas' first Adventure Park – Water Park combo. Opening May 2014, the \$13 million, year-round entertainment complex will employ more than 300 people during the peak summer months and 100 year-round.

"We're excited to bring a new level of family entertainment to North Texas," said Busch. "Our mission has always been to bring families closer together by providing a clean, safe, fun place for them to play together. Now we're enhancing the experience by providing a more challenging environment where the whole family can climb and jump and play together. Don't tell the kids they're exercising and they'll just think they're having fun."

The year-round Hawaiian Falls Adventure Park will open Memorial Day weekend and will feature multi-level ropes courses, adventure trail climbing nets, a military-style obstacle course, 60-foot high climbing and rappelling walls, a six-story Freefall attraction and 500-foot long zip lines. All the attractions will be adjacent to and above the Hawaiian Falls White Settlement waterpark site.



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More than 40 colorful watertoys and play structures add to an array of activities for children at the resort.
COURTESY
EMPEX WATERTOYS

Empex Watertoys installs children's waterplay area at Greek resort

PLATAMONAS, Greece — Empex Watertoys recently completed a unique new children's waterpark at the Cronwell Platamon Resort in Greece. Splash Territory offers a dynamic colorful Aquadek structure as the centerpiece with more than 40 interactive watertoys and play features surrounding it. The waterplay area was integrated into the existing pool layouts giving families with young children a new water playground at the resort.

Splash Territory is the latest offering for young children at the resort that already featured a playground, ping-pong school, sandcastle building and a staff fluent in Russian and English to organize children's activities throughout the day.

Situated on the golden shore of the Aegean Sea, the resort's warm summer evenings make nighttime activities extremely popular. Colorful programmed ground lights were added to Splash Territory to make the area accessible at night. The resulting lightshow also adds a new level of entertainment to the resort.

—Jeffrey Seifert

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Legoland Florida announces new hotel for 2015

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — Legoland Florida General Manager Adrian Jones officially announced the park's much anticipated Legoland Hotel will open in 2015. The announcement was made alongside community leaders with a ceremonial ground-breaking moment at the site where the hotel will be built, directly to the left of Legoland Florida's entrance, just steps from Lake Eloise.

"The opening of a Legoland Hotel will transition Legoland Florida from a single-day visit theme park to a multi-day resort destination," said Jones. "This will serve as a catalyst for future economic development in Polk County."

Welcoming guests with a multicolored exterior and entrance, the four-story Legoland Hotel will immerse families with young children in the world of Lego, as an extension of the vibrant and interactive theme park experience. Created to bring children's imaginations to life, the Lego-themed hotel will feature 152 brightly colored and highly themed rooms and suites, Lego décor; interactive play areas; a pool and a restaurant.

Legoland Florida Hotel will add 250 construction-related jobs during the construction, and another 250 jobs to its employee base to staff the new hotel upon completion. This will be the fifth Legoland Hotel in the world joining Legoland California, Legoland Windsor and Legoland Billund hotels. Legoland Malaysia Hotel will soon open its doors.



Officials at Legoland Florida have announced the park's much anticipated Legoland Hotel will open in 2015. The four-story Legoland Hotel will immerse families with young children in the world of Lego as an extension of the vibrant and interactive theme park experience. COURTESY LEGOLAND FLORIDA

Warner Bros. Consumer Products, SimEx-Iwerks announce partnership

BURBANK, Calif. and TORONTO — Warner Bros. Consumer Products and SimEx-Iwerks Entertainment have finalized a licensing agreement for the development and distribution of blockbuster 4-D content. This agreement provides SimEx-Iwerks exclusive access to a large library of Warner Bros.' films and select television shows to convert to 4-D Experiences for its clients around the world.

SimEx-Iwerks Entertainment has a 25-year history of creating immersive, cinematic attractions and has developed the largest 4-D Experience and motion film library in the business. Their branded content ranges from family classics like *The Wizard of Oz 4-D Experience*, *Yogi Bear 4-D Adventure*, and *The Polar Express 4-D Experience* to modern DC Comics Super Hero adventures like *Green Lantern 4-D*.

"Warner Bros. Consumer Products is excited to expand on its strong relationship with SimEx-Iwerks through this new partnership which will offer fans around the world the chance to engage with Warner Bros. films and television shows in



an innovative and fully immersive 4D entertainment experience," said Karen McTier, executive vice president, Domestic Licensing and Worldwide Marketing, Warner Bros. Consumer Products.

This new partnership with Warner Bros. Consumer Products will guarantee that SimEx-Iwerks Entertainment's impressive list of branded content will continue to expand. "This unique agreement provides us with a growing list of Warner Bros.' feature films and television shows which we can convert to incredible 4-D Experiences," said Mike Frueh, senior vice president, Licensing & Distribution. "We distribute content

to over 150 venues in more than 30 countries and our clients expect the very best brands in their theaters."

SimEx-Iwerks' long-standing relationship with Warner Bros. Consumer Products began in 2005 with the distribution of *The Funtastic World of Hanna-Barbera* — a motion simulator experience. In 2008, SimEx-Iwerks launched *The Polar Express 4-D Experience*, which would become their most successful film to date. This heartwarming show, which fully leverages the special F/X capabilities in their partner theaters, has been featured at over 50 venues and has become a holiday tradition with partner sites around the world.

SimEx-Iwerks is proud of this strong relationship with Warner Bros. Consumer Products and excited for the pipeline of 4-D Experiences to come. SimEx-Iwerks attractions add value and fun to the guest experience while generating revenue.

SimEx-Iwerks showcased some of its Warner Bros. film and television titles at the annual IAAPA trade show in Orlando.

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accesso acquires Siriusware, extends reach into sports

LONDON — accesso Technology Group plc, a premier technology solutions provider to the global attractions and leisure industry, has announced that it has acquired Siriusware, a leading North American provider of ticketing and point-of-sale (POS) software and hardware solutions to the leisure industry, with particular strength in the ski and snow sports sector.

The acquisition not only expands accesso's penetration within the theme park and attractions industry, but expands its presence within the cultural attractions segment and delivers direct access into the ski market.

"This acquisition aligns two like-minded teams and two highly complementary product offerings that, together, can unlock greater value in traditional markets and in new ones," said Tom Burnet, accesso CEO. "Siriusware's solutions expand our capabilities and allow us to offer support and innovation across multiple touch points in a guest's leisure journey — from ticketing and queuing to payments and point of sale."

Siriusware has been providing the prevailing point-of-sale solution in the ski and snow sports industry since 1989, servicing more than 130 ski



resorts of all sizes from North America to New Zealand. The firm's scope has expanded in recent years to include more than 120 clients across the attractions industry. Siriusware's range of services helps operators manage ticketing and admissions; membership and season pass processing; as well as on-site retail and food and beverage point of sale through a single, integrated platform.

"Siriusware is a company we admire for the quality of their solutions and, importantly, their deep commitment to customer service which is core to accesso's operating philosophy. We are thrilled to have the Siriusware product and team join our organization," said Steve Brown, accesso COO for North America and Europe. "Operators are in search of comprehensive solutions that can handle all facets of their business and with Siriusware on-

board, accesso can more readily deliver a broader offering across ticketing, queuing, payment processing and point of sale."

Under terms of the deal, Siriusware will retain its Taos, N.M. headquarters and Mark Danemann, Siriusware founder, will serve as president of the Siriusware division of the company. All 60 Siriusware employees will continue to work for the company.

"We are thrilled to join forces with accesso, a firm we have greatly respected for many years, and firmly believe we can deliver even more value to our current and future customers by working together to further expand our innovative solutions," Danemann said. "The move also allows us to further enhance our robust technology portfolio to better meet the needs of the industry, provide more options to our clients and open up new opportunities to expand and rapidly innovate."

The acquisition takes place in the midst of a continued growth period for accesso. In December 2012 the virtual queuing company known then as Lo-Q, acquired accesso, the attraction industry's leading ticketing and e-commerce innovator. This past November the company rebranded as accesso.

Tool helps trampoline parks, skating rinks, FECs manage multiple varieties of ticketing

ROXBORO, N.C. — Entertainment facility solutions provider CenterEdge Software (centeredgesoftware.com) has announced the addition of an innovative new wristband feature to its full suite of technology solutions to help manage time-based capacity ticketing.

The new feature was rolled-out during the recent International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Attractions Expo 2013 in Orlando, Florida November 18-22.

"Facilities can now have one computer printing to multiple wristband printers, which can be set up to print different colored wristbands to differentiate ticket purchasers' time or other purchase options such as skate rental," Marcus Mayer, CenterEdge Software director of operations, said.

According to Mayer, the wristband feature has applicability in many different types of venues and facilities such as skating rinks, trampoline parks, and laser tag venues.

"Automating the wristband printing gets people in and out more quickly and helps prevent employee theft where individuals are handing out wristbands to friends or pocketing money," he added.

Different types of facilities will be able to take advantage of multiple wristbands in a variety of ways. A trampoline park, for example, will be able to print wristbands whose colors indicate a jumper's end-time, making it easier to get jumpers off the trampolines at the correct time. Skating rinks could use different color wristbands to indicate different skate sessions or whether a guest had paid for skate rental, and laser tag facilities would have a different color printed for each game time.

Picsolve accelerates strategy with investment from Moonray Investors

LONDON — Picsolve, the premier image capture partner for the leisure and entertainment industry, recently announced a further investment of \$13 million from owners Moonray Investors, the proprietary investment arm of Fidelity Worldwide Investment. This investment will provide the capital needed to further accelerate Picsolve's mission to revolutionize the industry in the pursuit of truly connected guest experiences and untapped revenue potential for its customers.

Moonray's investment is part of a funding plan that started in 2011 to deliver a new vision of photography in leisure and entertainment. This next phase of investment is a testament to Picsolve's achievements as it continues to drive an aggressive road map of best in class retail disciplines and technology innovation in both print and digital

media.

Sebastian McKinlay, Moonray's representative and chairman of Picsolve, said, "We are delighted to be able to announce this further investment in Picsolve. It is a key step in accelerating its development in retail and digital propositions to consumers and helps drive long term growth. As the media-rich, social online community comes of age we are pleased to be at the forefront of the development curve during these exciting times."

With 20 years' experience, Picsolve is proud to have earned a strong reputation within the leisure and entertainment industry for delivering coherent operational solutions for complex environments. In particular, Picsolve's developments have focused on using innovation and commercial acumen to satisfy the rapidly changing demands

of consumers. With a strong foundation of expertise in designing end-to-end photo and video capture and distribution platforms to support great retailing experiences, Picsolve is increasingly connecting the entirety of a visitor's journey with more interactive products.

GSX is one example of a recent and innovative product where Picsolve's cutting edge Green Screen Experience is leading the field. This exciting new product has already been recognized by the attractions industry with the coveted International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Brass Ring Award for Best New Product 2012. The innovative GSX green screen provides a real time interactive and immersive experience outputting to both photographic and video based products via Picsolve's

► See PICSOLVE, page 42



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nWave Pictures brings Red Star's *The Lost World* to parks

ORLANDO, Fla. and BRUSSELS — nWave Pictures Distribution premiered its newest 4D attraction film *The Lost World* at the recent IAAPA Expo in Orlando.

Produced by British animation studio Red Star and directed by Ben Smith, this epic film takes the audiences into a whole new world of adventure, 40 million years in the making. This new 11-minute 4D title is exclusively distributed by nWave and will be available to theme parks and attraction exhibitors worldwide.

The company has also confirmed the Spring 2014 release of its new 4D production *The House of Magic: The 4D Experience*.

The Lost World 4D depicts the story of Bob, a stressed executive who heads to a deserted island for a much-needed vacation. It's a perfect place to relax, with sandy beaches and coconut trees... until his paradise turns out to be home to a lost world of prehistoric dinosaurs. Fierce Raptors, flying Pterosaurs, giant Triceratops, and the mighty T-Rex all roam this hostile world. With assistance from his unlikely rescuer, Professor Lizzie, Bob sets out to escape from these terrifying predators.

"After our successful launch earlier this year of the *The Good The Bad and A Horse* 4D and *Space Chase* 3D — The Ride, we are thrilled to again partner with Red Star on another quality film, the 33rd title in our popular catalog of 4D attraction films," said

Eric Dillens, chairman of nWave Studios. "This comic, fast-paced, entertaining and immersive adventure is ideally suited for spectacular special effects. From a wild jeep ride through a dense tropical rainforest to a perilous flight above and inside this forgotten island, this adventure will offer a thrilling experience to audiences."

"Although we designed a high-energy entertaining animated film for theme parks, we knew that to fit the mission of institutional venues, we needed to depict the dinosaurs realistically, in a scientifically accurate way, so we concentrated a lot of effort to meet that expectation," explains the film's director and Red Star's creative director Ben Smith. "For extra impact, the use of 3D creates the illusion that the dinosaurs are coming out of the screen, while the addition of 4D effects such as water splashes, vibration, wind blasts, seat drops, lighting, leg tickles and motion cues will totally immerse viewers."

nWave has also confirmed plans to launch in Spring 2014 the new 4D production "The House of Magic: The 4D Experience" directed by Ben Stassen and Jeremy Degruson. The 12-minute 4D attraction film features Thunder, an abandoned young cat, who stumbles into the strangest house imaginable, owned by an old magician and inhabited by a dazzling array of automatons and gizmos.



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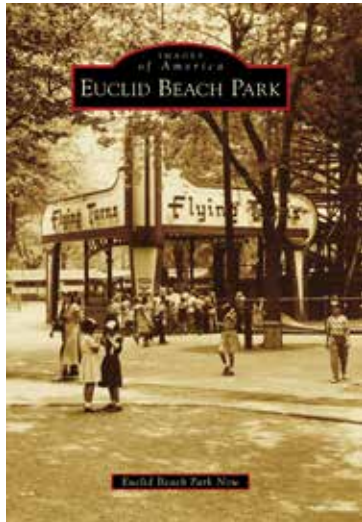
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Arcadia Book features pictorial chronicle of Euclid Beach Park

New 128-page book chronicles park's 74 year run

STORY: Jeffrey L. Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

By the 1920s almost every major North American city had an amusement park. Some of those parks transcended beyond the typical entertainment zone to become magical places where generations of patrons would go year after year to make happy memories with their children, then in turn their children's children. These parks became institutions within the communities in which they were built. But, sadly, many of these parks fell victim to changing times, changing demographics, encroaching neighborhoods or competition from other venues. When the front gates were shuttered for good, many former patrons scrambled to collect souvenirs and held on to their precious photographs to help keep the memories alive. Parks such as Chicago's Riverview Park, Missouri's Forest Park Highlands, New Jersey's Palisades Amusement Park and California's Long Beach Pike have inspired books, television specials and



fan clubs and hold a special place in the hearts of the locals who frequented them.

Few, however, have garnered the affection, memories, and respect that the people of Northeast Ohio have for the 75-acre plot of land on the southern shore of Lake Erie that, for 74 years, was known as Euclid Beach Park. Fond memories of the park can be relived in *Euclid Beach Park*, a new Arcadia Images of America book — part of an immense series that commemorates a town, region, or attraction with vintage photographs captioned to tell a story. This particular book was a project of Euclid Beach Park Now, an organization founded in 1989 to support the historical education of

Euclid Beach Park through lectures, displays, exhibits and memorabilia shows. The 128-page book is divided into three chapters, providing a pictorial account of the early years, the park's heyday and post closing. A page of acknowledgements and a detailed introduction provide background information on the park. The photos appear mostly in chronological order.

Rather than relying on the experience and research of a single author or co-authors, *Euclid Beach Park* had the advantage of utilizing the invaluable knowledge of a collective group of individuals who share the same passion of historical education about the park. The result is an extremely accurate and well-dialogued book. The group also enlisted the assistance of nonmember Lee Bush, who co-authored two previous books on the subject that likely started the memorabilia renaissance in 1977: *Euclid Beach Park is Closed for the Season* and *Euclid Beach Park a Second Look*.

For those not familiar with the story, In 1894 Euclid Beach opened, as so many other parks had, with a bathing beach, bathhouse, wooden pier, dance hall, restaurant, theater and beer garden. As attendance increased,



This original wooden entrance arch (above) was replaced with a stone arch (below) in the 1920s. The stone arch still remains, and has been designated a city landmark by the Cleveland Landmarks Commission. COURTESY ARCADIA



attractions such as a Ferris wheel, switchback railway and carousel were added, along with sideshows and gambling. Eventually the park began to attract an unsavory crowd and business suffered from the opening of Manhattan Beach just 20 blocks away. The five businessmen who owned the park decided to close it.

The Humphrey Family, who had made a name for itself growing hybrid corn on a local farm and operating popcorn stands in Cleveland, offered to lease the park and a deal was struck. The Humphreys were determined to make the park family friendly and eliminated the beer garden, sideshows

► See REVIEW, page 39



The Arrow Development guide-limited Turnpike Cars (above) were installed at the park in 1962. The Sleepy Hollow Railroad (right) wound its way through the Racing Coaster then past the tiny village of Sleepy Hollow. COURTESY ARCADIA



►REVIEW

Continued from page 38

and gambling establishments, and cleaned up the park.

After taking over in 1901, the Humphreys added a new attraction every year and people flocked to the park to enjoy the clean entertainment and pleasant surroundings. Euclid Beach Park would continue to operate until its demise in 1969. A reporter from *Amusement Park Management* summed it up best in an article he wrote in 1930:

"...Euclid Beach Park, although it is a big park and a clean one and a refined one, has no "high hat" atmosphere — and no "low hat" attraction either. The Humphrey management has accomplished a happy medium. It is not managed to attract particularly the higher class of patron that is seen at Rye's Playland, for instance, nor the more numerous type that mass into Coney Island, New York. It has managed to attract everybody and to make them feel at home. Not too many decorations,

not too much landscaping, no buildings that look as if it might cost a lot of money to go into them — just plain but substantial and satisfying amusement fare that gives dime for dime value..."

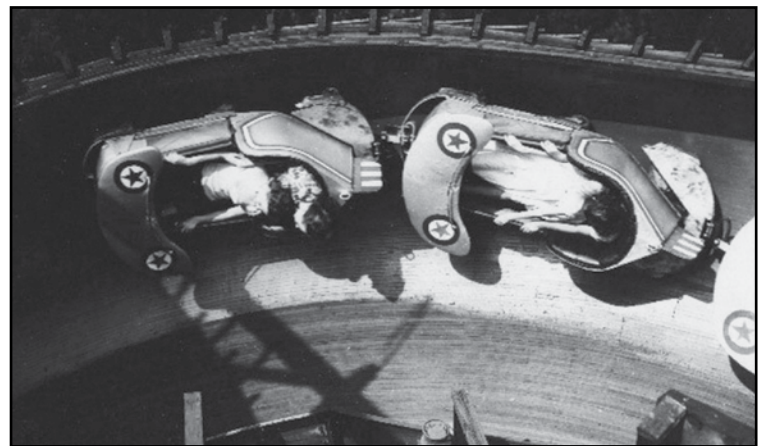
The Humphreys operated the park for almost 70 years. Offering free entry, a safe atmosphere, and a morally safe haven. Euclid Beach thrived, but by the 1960s the park was showing its age. Although always operated to the high standards established by the Humphrey family, the luster began to fade. New attractions continued to be added, but the park was landlocked and faced stiff competition from Geauga Lake to the South and Cedar Point to the West, with the latter beginning to establish itself as a mega park.

Taxes on the land continued to increase and the revenue decreased. In 1968, the Humphreys announced that the park had been losing money for the previous five years, and that 1969 would be the park's final season. All good things must come to an end, and on September 28,

1969, Euclid Beach Park closed forever.

Clevelanders had lost Euclid Beach but the memories refused to fade. Many rides were relocated, and collectors salvaged artifacts from attractions that were doomed to the wrecking ball. Organizations formed, books were written and artifacts were displayed in local malls. A car from the Thriller roller coaster and a Rocket Ship car were both modified to be used in local parades. An annual event still takes place on the former grounds of the park on or near the September 28 — the park's closing date.

Images of America Euclid Beach offers a remarkable collection of vintage images to tell the story of this local institution that served generations of family members seeking a place of fantasy and thrills to escape the rigors of everyday life. The book retails for \$21.99 and is available at local bookstores, online retailers or through Arcadia Publishing at www.arcadiapublishing.com, (888) 313-2665.



Above, this rare Miller and Bartlett Flying Turns was the tallest ride of its type ever built. It operated for 39 years. Below, The Great American Derby Racer was sold and moved to Cedar Point in 1967. It is one of only two Prior & Church Racing Derby rides still in existence. COURTESY ARCADIA



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MARKETWATCH

RIDING THE MARKET



*Six Flags stock split on June 27, 2013

Company	Prices One Month Ago	Prices 12/12/13	52 Weeks High	Low
Cedar Fair L.P.	\$46.69	\$48.44	\$50.16	\$31.71
MGM Mirage	\$19.20	\$20.83	\$21.20	\$11.27
Six Flags Ent. Corp.*	\$36.97	\$35.85	\$40.31	\$29.04
CBS Corp.	\$58.73	\$58.17	\$61.08	\$34.72
Walt Disney Co.	\$67.77	\$69.63	\$72.13	\$48.55
Apollo Global Mgt. LLC	\$29.35	\$29.70	\$34.88	\$16.28
Blackstone Group	\$25.79	\$28.97	\$29.69	\$14.60
Village Roadshow	\$7.49	\$7.40	\$8.05	\$3.85
NBC Universal	\$27.05	\$26.54	\$27.50	\$20.26
SeaWorld Entertainment Inc.	\$31.92	\$29.41	\$39.65	\$27.48

CURRENCY DIESEL PRICES



TOP 7 MOST TRADED CURRENCIES



Region (U.S.)	As of 12/09/13	Change from year ago
East Coast	\$3.912	-\$0.157
Midwest	\$3.870	-\$0.107
Gulf Coast	\$3.773	-\$0.101
Mountain	\$3.851	-\$0.087
West Coast	\$3.906	-\$0.076
California	\$4.066	-\$0.027

On 12/13/13 \$1 USD =
 0.7259 EURO
 0.6108 GBP (British Pound)
 102.78 JPY (Japanese Yen)
 0.8874 CHF (Swiss Franc)
 1.1102 AUD (Australian Dollar)
 1.0600 CAD (Canadian Dollar)

PEOPLE WATCH

SeaWorld appoints Deborah Thomas to board

SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc. in Orlando, Fla. recently announced that the company has appointed **Deborah Thomas** to its board of directors and the Audit Committee. The appointment was effective November 11, 2013.

"We are delighted that Deborah will be joining our board of directors. Not only does she bring significant expertise in all aspects of corporate finance and governance, but much of her career has been spent in a leadership role for a company that shares many of our core values," said Jim Atchison, president and CEO of SeaWorld Entertainment. "Hasbro has been enriching the lives of children and families for 90 years through some of the world's best known brands and play experiences."

Thomas currently serves as the executive vice president and CFO for global branded play leader Hasbro, Inc. and leads Hasbro's global financial operations, including accounting and control, business planning and analysis, internal audit, treasury, tax, investor relations and other key financial disciplines. She joined Hasbro in 1998.

Pawley joins U.K. Simworx

U.K. company Simworx has appointed well-known industry figure **Edward Pawley** to the position of business development manager.



Pawley

Pawley brings a wealth of experience to the role having spent many years in senior operational positions at the U.K.'s Drayton Manor Theme Park, including as general manager of park operations in which position he was responsible for the sourcing and installation of a wide range of rides and attractions. Latterly, he was part of the management team planning the Adventure World Warsaw project in Poland.

Commenting on the appointment, Simworx Managing Director Terry Monkton said: "I am delighted to welcome Edward to the Simworx team. He has a wealth of knowledge of the theme park and attractions industry and also, of course, of all types of rides which will be invaluable in his new role. He also has contacts within the business throughout the world so this all makes him the perfect candidate for the position. He'll make a great addition to the team as Simworx continues to grow."

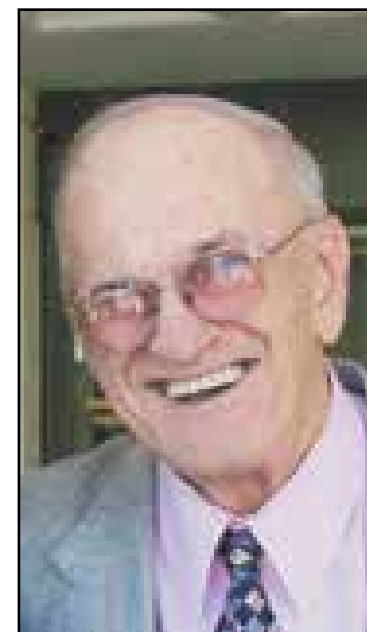
The role will see Pawley developing sales across the globe at

NJAA honors Amusement Today and Gary Slade for Superstorm Sandy coverage



During its annual breakfast meeting at the 2013 IAAPA Attractions Expo, the New Jersey Amusement Association honored *Amusement Today* and publisher Gary Slade for the publication's commitment to both the association with editorial coverage following the destruction left by Superstorm Sandy. All total, Slade and AT correspondent Dean Lamanna produced 34 editorial pages chronicling the storm impact on the pier parks and concluding with the pier reopenings. It became AT's longest and largest coverage effort of a single amusement industry related event in the publication's history. Slade (right) is honored with a plaque presented by NJAA's John Maurer and Kim Samarelli. COURTESY NRCMA/RICHARD MUNCH

venues including theme parks, museums, zoos, FECs, science centres and more and commenting on the appointment he said: "This is a great new challenge for me. Having looked at a number of different options on the operating side I felt this was too good a chance to pass up. It is a very exciting time for Simworx with the continued success of its current product range and the many new developments it is currently working on which will see the introduction of more new products. It is a rapidly growing company with further potential for expansion and I'm looking forward to being part of what is set to be an exciting future."



Lloyd Thomas Baynum dies at 79

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. — **Lloyd Thomas Baynum** passed away at his home on November 25, 2013. He was 79.

Lloyd retired 16 years ago as a machinist for Litton Industries in Florence, Ky. He was a faithful member of the Alexandria Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, where a memorial service was held on November 30 in Cold Spring, Ky.

Lloyd was a quiet man who had a profound love for his wife Sandy of 60 years, and their five children (Betty Dulaney, David, Greg, Chris, and Debbie) along with eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Lloyd's son founded Baynum Painting, the leading paint contractor for the amusement industry.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Alexandria Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, or to the American Heart Association.

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Diane Disney Miller with Walt Disney Storytellers statue at Disney California Adventure in 2012.
COURTESY DISNEYLAND RESORT

Diane Disney Miller, Walt's only biological child, dies at 79

NAPA, Calif. — **Diane Disney Miller**, the elder and only biological child of Walt Disney and his wife, Lillian Bounds Disney, died November 19, it was recently announced by The Walt Disney Company. Miller was one of the famed theme park founder's inspirations for creating Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif., and was the wife of former Disney CEO Ron Miller. She was 79.

Miller had a younger sister, Sharon Mae Disney, whom the Disneys adopted at birth in 1936 and who died in 1993. Diane and Sharon inspired their father to create Disneyland when, seated on a nearby bench, he watched them playing in a park.

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of Diane Disney Miller," said Disney President and CEO Robert Iger in a statement. "She is remembered by Disney fans around the world as the beloved daughter of Walt Disney, and one who graciously shared her family history and personal memories of her father."

Iger described Miller as "a fierce guardian of her father's legacy" who never hesitated to set the record straight, even opening The Walt Disney Family Museum in the Presidio in San Francisco to bring her father's fascinating story to life.

"In our many conversations over the years, Diane's unique and special perspective about her father only deepened my considerable appreciation for him," Iger said. "Diane was incredibly generous in that regard, freely sharing her personal insights and providing details that deepened our knowledge, and we remain grateful for her many valuable contributions to our efforts to preserve Disney history. She and her sister, Sharon, have long been recognized as Walt's inspiration for Disneyland, a place he created for families to have fun together. For that reason and many others, Diane will always have a special place in our company's legacy and in the hearts of fans."

Miller also was known for her philanthropic efforts, including playing an integral role in the development of the renowned Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles — ensuring the creation of a unique venue bearing her father's name that she believed would be "a wonderful thing for the city, for the spirit, for the soul."

The Millers had seven children of their own. In 2012, Miller and her family visited Disney California Adventure park in Anaheim, Calif., for the first time since its expansion. In her memory and honor, flags at the Disney Studio Lot in Burbank, Calif., and at the company's theme parks were flown at half-mast.

Former Indiana Beach owner Thomas Spackman dies at 100

MONTICELLO, Ind. — **Thomas E. Spackman** of Monticello, died November 11, 2013, at White Oak Health Campus in Monticello. He was 100.

He was the son of Earl W. Spackman who founded Ideal Beach in 1926. He was born in Highland Park, Michigan and the family later moved to Indianapolis where Tom graduated from Shortridge High School. He was a lifetime member of Indiana University Emeritus Club earning a B.S. degree in Business in 1937. On July 13, 1937 he married the former Helen F. Quackenbush in Crown Point, Indiana and she preceded him in death on July 7, 1993. He became CEO of Ideal Beach in 1945 and later changed the name from Ideal Beach to Indiana Beach "Riviera of the Midwest" in 1952.

As Chief Executive Officer of Indiana Beach Amusement and Camp Resort, Tom worked to significantly improve the industry's status and reputation regionally, nationally, and internationally. Indiana Beach Amusement and Camp Resort originally opened nearly 86 years ago in its current location as a swimming and boating area. In 2008, when the park was sold, it had 28 adult rides, nine children's rides, a fun house, shops, miniature golf, a waterpark, swimming, restaurants and resort accommodations. It was known throughout the Midwest as a place where one could go to enjoy good, clean, family fun.

In a resolution in 2004, the State of Indiana recognized Tom's contributions to the state acknowledging among other things that largely due to the efforts of Tom Spackman, Sr. the world knows that "There's more than corn in Indiana."

Tom's other industry achievements include building Indiana Beach Amusement Resort into a major regional summer resort; building Indiana Beach Campground Resort and Jellystone Camp Resort; and designing six of Indiana Beach's amusement attractions (Sky



Ride, Shafer Queen, Mystery Mansion, Dr. Frankenstein's Castle, Antique Auto, and Superstition Mountain). Bill Luse Sr. did the construction for all of these rides except for the Antique Auto Track. Along with Bill Koch of Holiday World, Tom founded the Indiana Travel and Tourism Association which later became the Indiana Department of Tourism. Tom was Director from 1983-1989, he created and funded the Visitor's Guide and Lake Guide to promote the Monticello tourist industry, pioneered the first Lake Shafer cleanup with the installation of a sewage treatment facility, served as 1975 President of International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA), he donated land and worked to make North 6th Street a reality, and in 1990 he was the co-chair with Dr. Nolan Hibner of the White County Memorial Hospital Capitol Campaign that raised more than \$900,000 for a new addition to the hospital.

Wonderland Amusement Park President Paul Borchardt recalls Tom as an industry champion: "I remember Tom as one of the 'hands-on' men of our industry. When he thought of a ride or attraction that he thought would work in his facility, he made it. He had vision, initiative, technical capability, and could produce a product that would work. As a former president of our association he provided years of leadership nationally. He also promoted his amusement facility to levels not seen before in Indiana tourism. I'm sure every one remembers

"There's More Than Corn in Indiana" that was developed by Bill Robinson and used effectively by Indiana Beach. Tom was very proud of that and I can still see him smiling when ever I hear those words."

Bill Robinson of William H. Robinson, Inc., adds: "In my 52-plus years in the amusement industry, I don't believe I have ever met or worked for anyone who respected his park's guests, and the men and women who worked for him more than Tom Spackman. He was one of those men that gave birth to the amusement industry, one of those men who built his park with his money, calloused hands and sweat on his brow. His open door policy to his team did nothing but strengthen the respect those of us who worked at Indiana Beach had for him. Many times while working in the office, members of IB team like carpenter Larry Julien, mechanic Butch Minnick or Chef Dave would come in to advise him or to discuss work in progress. More than once Tom would ask their opinion on the project being discussed and normally ended the conversation with a personal question - like 'How's your wife and family?'"

Surviving are two sons, Thomas E. Spackman of Newbury Park, California, James W. (Patty) Spackman of Cornville, Arizona; three daughters, Joy A. Boomer-shine Bailey, Ruth C. Davis, and Cathy J. Juntgen of Monticello; 14 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held November 14, 2013 at Springer-Voorhis-Draper Funeral Home, 202 S. Illinois Street, Monticello, Indiana with final services the following day at Monticello Christian Church with Rev. Chris Dodson officiating.

Memorial contributions are encouraged to be given to the White County Community Foundation to benefit the White County Youth Chamber Fund or to the Monticello-Union Township Public Library Operating Fund.

Ideal Software Systems celebrates 30th anniversary

MERIDIAN, Miss. — Ideal Software Systems recently celebrated its 30th anniversary at the 2013 IAAPA Attractions Expo (Nov. 19-22) in Orlando, Fla. The company's history is distinguished by its innovative product solutions and unparalleled customer service as one of the amusement industry's most comprehensive, versatile and user-friendly business management system.

Founded in 1983 and still family owned and operated today, Ideal Software Systems has driven technological advancements in amusement business management software throughout its history, from pioneering redemption center management and party scheduling to its leadership in creating hosted and mobile solutions that create more opportunities for growing profits.



"As we celebrate our 30th year in business, we are continuing to grow and strengthen our commitment to the amusement industry," said David Goldman, founder and president of Ideal

Software Systems. "Ideal gives FECs and amusement facilities a streamlined, native approach with full integration of all components, allowing them to finally untangle the web of systems

they use while benefiting the bottom line at their profit centers."

Goldman's roots in the amusement industry stretch back to his youth, when working in his family's FEC provided the inspiration and foundation for creating Ideal Software. Ideal continues to evolve to serve modern FECs, parks and amusement facilities with one full-featured solution from the game floor to food-and-beverage to redemption to back-of-house that includes Point of Sale, cashless debit card, party scheduling, e-commerce such as e-ticketing and hosted reservations, mobile integration and more.

"The Ideal system goes deeper into every area of your business and brings together all the pieces of the management puzzle so you can run your business more successfully," said Goldman. "We have aligned our system with superior hardware, including the most advanced wireless card reader with full-motion video, sound, optical bar-code scanning, redundant offline operation, and the ability to add cash value from a smart phone."

Ideal Software's N-Site is the only Point of Sale system that fully integrates all profit centers in an FEC, from party management to cashless and redemption to a complete food and beverage system.

"With Ideal, you have one log-in, one common set of reports, one customer database and one cash drawer," said Goldman. "That simplicity makes it easy to build customer loyalty programs, sell entitlements and time play packages, book parties online and much more."

Ideal N-Site also allows a facility's customers to book parties online, 24/7. The online booking engine knows the exact capacity, dates and times available and won't allow overbooking because it is part of a seamless POS.

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For more information, please contact Amusement Expo Show Management, W.T. Glasgow, Inc.
708-226-1300 or www.AmusementExpo.org

►PICSOLVE

Continued from page 36

new for 2013 GSX to Video offering.

In addition, Picsolve launched its new global image cloud platform in July 2012 and this season this platform will power over sixty sites globally. This seamless platform is available on PC, Tablet and Mobile.

IAAPA 2013 - ORLANDO

2013 IAAPA Expo astounding success, forecasts great things to come

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — Midway through the 2013 International Association Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Expo, association officials were getting that “good old time feeling.”

“I am very pleased with how things are going,” said David Mandt, IAAPA vice president of communications, as he walked the tradeshow floor. “I am getting a lot of positive feedback and I am hearing that there is a lot of business being done.”

And, as it turned out, there was definitely a good reason for feeling good.

Numbers for the 2013 Expo marked a 10-year high for exhibit space and registrants. According to numbers released by IAAPA, total attendance was approximately 29,000 representing 110 nations packed into the Orange County Convention Center for the 2013 event that ran November 18-22. Of the 29,000 in attendance, there were more than 18,200 buyers.

There were more than 1,000 exhibiting companies from 35 countries showcasing and debuting the newest innovations in the attractions industry in more than 125 product and service categories, including rides, live entertainment, midway games, redemption games, inflatable attractions, souvenirs, food and beverage and more.

The trade show floor spanned more than 500,000 net square feet, the size of more than 13 football fields.

“IAAPA Attractions Expo provides a unique opportunity to connect innovators and inventors with the decision makers of the worldwide attractions industry,” said IAAPA President and CEO



The 2013 IAAPA Attractions Expo set a 10-year high mark with 29,000 in total attendance, of which 18,200 were listed as buyers. More than 1,000 exhibiting companies from 35 countries showcased their products during the four-day trade show held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla. AT/TIM BALDWIN

Paul Noland. “Relations that begin on the IAAPA Attractions Expo trade show floor have the potential to change businesses and our industry forever.”

This was Noland’s first trade show as the head of the worldwide organization. He took over from Chip Cleary who left at the end of 2012.

Attendees to the 2013 event also were treated to more than 85 expert-led education programs, luncheons, roundtable discussions, behind-the-scenes tours,

daylong institutes and half-day symposiums designed to give directors, managers, senior executives and CEOs the knowledge they need to keep up in the rapidly changing global attractions industry.

Education sessions covered a range of the industry’s most in-demand topics, including communications and public relations, entertainment, facility operations and emergency preparedness, finance and information technology, food

► See IAAPA page 44

Attractions industry raises \$115,000 for Give Kids The World Village

ORLANDO, Fla. — The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) and attractions industry professionals raised more than \$115,000 for the association’s 18-year charity partner, Give Kids The World (GKTW) Village in Kissimmee, Florida, through private donations and four events held during IAAPA Attractions Expo 2013. Proceeds from IAAPA’s International Charity Golf Tournament, Motorcycle Ride, 5K/1K Fun Run and Walk, Footprints from the Heart, Chance to Win raffle, and private donations benefit the nonprofit resort that provides cost-free vacations for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families.

“We are overwhelmed by the tremendous outpouring of love and support from the IAAPA family throughout the Expo,” said GKTW President Pam Landwirth. “Through IAAPA Attractions Expo 2013 events and individual check donations, a record amount was raised this year! Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone who has embraced our mission and helps us create the happiness that inspires hope for our precious guests.”

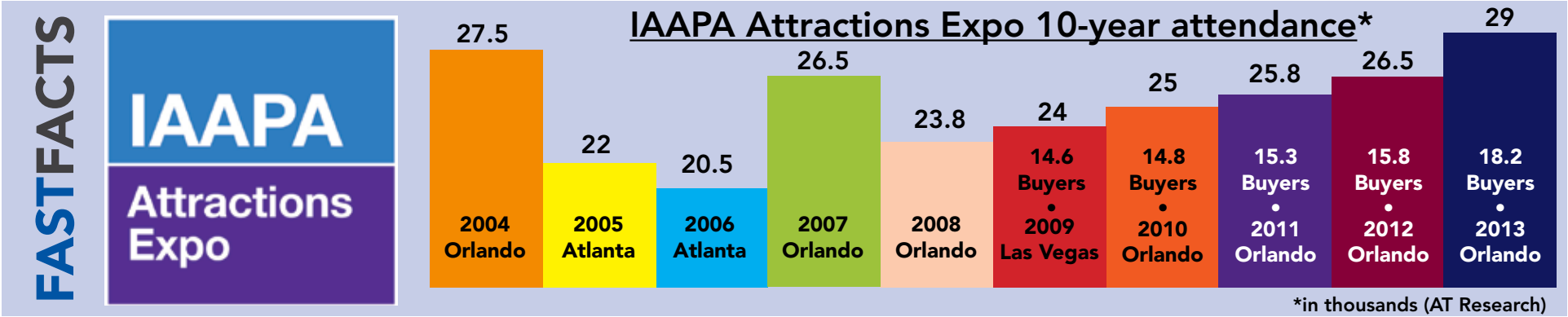
Give Kids The World (GKTW) Village is a 70-acre, non-profit resort based in Central Florida that creates magical memories for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. GKTW provides accommodations at its whimsical Village, donated attractions tickets, meals, and more for a weeklong, cost-free fantasy vacation. With the help of many generous individuals, corporations, and partnering wish-granting organizations, Give Kids The World has welcomed more than 122,000 families from all 50 states and more than 74 countries.

•www.givekidstheworld.org



A check representing the money collected at Knoebels Amusement Park’s wishing well, was presented to Give Kids the World. The wishing well is being headed up by the fifth generation of the Knoebel family to be involved in running the park and they were on hand to sign and present the check.

AT/TIM BALDWIN



IAAPA 2013 - ORLANDO

IAAPA

Continued from page 43

and beverage, games, human resources, marketing, retail merchandising, safety and more.

On the trade show floor, the tradition of announcing new products and projects continued this year.

Some of those announcements included:

•Exhibitor **Gerstlauer Amusement Rides** debuted the vehicle for the Fire Chaser Express, a new ride opening in the spring of 2014 at Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. The dual-launch coaster will have a track length of 2,427 feet.

•Virtual queuing company **Lo-Q** announced the acquiring of **accesso**, a leading ticketing and eCommerce Firm. The combined company will operate under the **accesso** name.

•**Rocky Mountain Construction Group** debuted a vehicle for the Goliath wooden roller coaster set to open at Six Flags Great America, Gurnee, Ill., in spring 2014. Goliath features a vertical drop of 180 feet and will reach top speeds of up to 72 mph. Riders will face three intense over-banked turns and a 180-degree zero-G roll twist while also flipping head over heels through two inversions.

•**Iron Caddie** showcased a new interactive game that utilizes a new technology.

•**Ropes Courses Inc.** debuted its patent-pending Sky Trail line of products. This line is a rigid zip track attraction

that rides like a zip line, but with many advantages for both course owner and participant including flexible installation options and ease of use.

•**Chance Rides** exhibited a car for its new Hyper Coaster GT-X, with one set to open in May 2014. The centerline of the coaster was designed by Alan Schilke, **Ride Centerline**.

•Also unveiled was the new Raft Battle ride from **Hopkins Rides**. This interactive product engages riders and participants.

•**Bob's Space Racers** displayed several new games including the Dolphin Dip and Jumpin' Monkees.

And, these new product announcements were just the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

There also were a variety of first-time exhibitors on the tradeshow floor.

"There was a palpable energy throughout IAAPA Attractions Expo 2013," Noland said. "Business is clearly booming. The week was filled with big project announcements, exciting ride reveals, contracts being signed, and education sessions overflowing with attractions professionals."

Exhibitors were definitely feeling the energy. Jeff Seeberger, vice president franchise sales, **Johnny Rockets**, said: "This has been an excellent show for us." He was seeing more people on the floor and more people wanting to do business.

His sentiments were echoed throughout the floor.

Attendees of this year's expo were also enjoying the

many education sessions. There were a variety of general session seminars which hit on those hot topics the industry is facing. Also offered were those sessions with specific tracks tailored to zoo and aquarium professionals, water park professionals, family entertainment center (FEC) professionals, and museums and science centers professionals.

In addition, IAAPA offered four comprehensive institutes during the 2013 Expo that catered to specific interests in the attractions industry. Institutes included the IAAPA Institute for Attractions Managers, a management development program for up-and-coming industry professionals; the Institute for FEC Rookies and Newcomers, a program for those just entering the FEC business; the IAAPA Institute for the Essentials of Human Resource Management, which showcased strategies for managing employees throughout their employment life cycle; and Project Planning for the Attractions Industry, a highly interactive workshop that provided guidance on how to manage a project from start to finish.

And, of course, there were an abundance of networking opportunities as well as events just for fun. Behind-the-scene tours of six premier Orlando-area attractions were offered.

Those facilities included Disney at Dawn at Epcot, which featured a pre-opening facility tour and remarks from Epcot's Vice President Erin Youngs;

IAAPA Attractions Expo by the numbers

Exhibitors held more than **16** press conferences to reveal new rides, attractions, technology, and innovations during Expo.

1,098 companies displayed innovative new products and services on 528,578 net square feet of trade show floor space. It was the largest trade show floor in 10 years and the largest outdoor area ever. The indoor exhibit space was completely sold out.

Approximately **1,200** industry leaders enjoyed a lunch and learn presentation by Walt Disney World Resort President George Kalogridis and keynote breakfast address by Matt Ouimet, President and CEO, Cedar Fair Entertainment Company.

1,500 participants met, socialized, and shared ideas at the Opening Reception.

1,600 people enjoyed Antarctica: Empire of the Penguin, Manta, Kraken, and "Shamu Rocks" during IAAPA Celebrates at SeaWorld Orlando.

1,800 people attended the Kickoff Event, the week's official opening session, for an update on the state of the industry; to see the exciting new attractions introduced around the world in 2013; and to preview new developments for 2014.

11,300 people (an increase of five percent over last year) participated in 80 education programs, which included multiple-day Institutes, behind-the-scenes tours, panel and roundtable discussions, and half-day symposiums.

18,200 total qualified buyers including executives from amusement parks, water parks, family entertainment centers (FECs), zoos, aquariums, museums, science centers, resorts, and roadside attractions from around the world participated.

Expo participants raised a record-breaking **\$115,000** for Give Kids The World the Kissimmee, Fla., resort for children with life-threatening illnesses with a golf tournament, motorcycle ride, fun run and walk, a chance-to-win, and individual and corporate donations.

Disney's Blizzard Beach, which offered water park operators insights into the operations and design of the park; Disney's Hollywood Studios, which included an exclusive back-of-house experience of "The Osborne Family Spectacle of Dancing Lights;" Fun Spot America, offering a look at

the recently rebranded FEC that is in the middle of a two-part \$20 million expansion; Legoland Florida, which offered attendees a look at the new World of Chima area; and Kennedy Space Center that offered a special visit to the new \$100 million Space Shuttle Atlantis facility and shuttle launch experience.

Thursday evening brought the IAAPA Celebrates at SeaWorld Orlando—Antarctica: Empire of the Penguin. The evening included food and beverage, a look at the new penguin exhibit and Shamu Rocks with Fireworks Finale show. Kraken and Manta were opened for attendees.

Throughout the week there were numerous other receptions and social activities.

The 2013 IAAPA Expo brought to a close a record-breaking year as more than 43,000 people, including 28,000 buyers, participated in IAAPA's Expos around the world: Asian Attractions Expo, Euro Attractions Show, and IAAPA Attractions Expo.



In addition to an exhibit booth on the trade show floor, the National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives presented a timeline featuring significant moments in the History of the Roller Coaster. The timeline was on display on level 2 of the south concourse. Originally more than 300 plus entries, the timeline was scaled down to 58 listings for the IAAPA Attractions Expo location. The display represented more than a year's work by several NRCMA board members. AT/TIM BALDWIN

IAAPA 2013 - ORLANDO

Roller coasters lead new ride products

Ride manufacturers unveil new concepts and solid sales

STORY: Tim Baldwin
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ORLANDO, Fla. — Long ago, IAAPA was energetic with announcements from the floor and new ride concepts being showcased. As the century was changing over to the new millennium, some of that buzz seemed to subside as manufacturers avoided talking about new projects in fear of stepping on the parks' toes. This caused some of the trade show's excitement to be diminished. Thankfully recent years have reversed that trend. The 2013 IAAPA expo was a blur of announcements, and new ride concepts were in a word — impressive. Very much so. The energy on the floor was almost tangible. Ride manufacturers were having a tremendous show.

One of the biggest announcements came from **Martin & Vlemminckx Rides**. The company's Chuck Bingham revealed that the firm will be building four new wooden coasters in China over the next 16 months. While he reported that he would allow each park to reveal the statistics and ride details of each installation, *AT* has confirmed that each of the four coasters will be a unique design and a signature coaster for each park. The first is to open in May of 2014 with the final one predicted to open in February of 2015. One of the coasters will utilize a unique terrain (at Hotgo Park) while the other three are more on a

flatter span of real estate. At least one will also feature a 360-degree barrel roll, which will be a first for the Asian market. These projects will also partner with **American Amusements** for controls and **Velocity Magnetics** for brakes. Gerry Gosine, vice president of sales for Martin & Vlemminckx Rides tells *AT* that the projects have been in the works for about two years but, "Hardcore, the last year and a half."

Working with MVR, **Gravity Group** is doing the design work on the four China projects. Three of the woodies will include the company's Timberliner trains. In addition to those overseas projects, one here in the states is sure to find favor with park guests and coaster fans as well. Story Land in Glen, N.H., announced from the floor that Roarasaurus will be a 1,200 foot long junior coaster. Larry Bill of Gravity Group reports, "It will be a compact ride on an existing island; there are a lot of factors to take into account with the access to the island and the position of the coaster in relation to the mountain." Roarie — the little dinosaur with a big roar — will be a new mascot to the Story Land family. This installation will help celebrate the park's 60th anniversary.

PTCI will be joining the MVR China projects as well. The first of the China woodies at Fantawild Zhuzhou Park will sport PTCI trains. When

asked about the wooden coaster explosion in China, Tom Rebbie, president and owner of PTCI, says, "I think it's great! I'm glad they are starting with wooden roller coasters. If you go there and watch people get on the ride or get off like I do here in the States, it's more fun. They love 'em. They don't know what to expect when they get on. When they get off they're a changed person."

In terms of new trains, Rebbie says production at PTCI will ship 12 cars in January and 12 cars in February.

Other big news came from the **S&S/Sansei** booth where a flood of new ideas were surging with drawings, ride vehicles, props and one of the brightest signage towers on the floor.

The company's El Loco 4-seater vehicle was on display at the S&S booth. New concepts were also on display with the 4D Free Spin coaster. Interest was high with three verbal commitments from the show floor according to Kevin Rohwer, vice president sales and marketing. The ride's vertically-stacked track allows vehicle seats to flip independently, but with safety engineered into the G-forces. "The customer can decide if they want the seats to all face forward or if they want to face each other," says Rohwer in reference to the seating configuration of the two-car vehicles. The ride vehicles feature cantilevered

seating outside of the tracks as the company's previous 4th Dimension coasters offered.

Towering above it all was a display about Poler Coaster, by **US Thrill Rides** and exclusively manufactured by S&S Worldwide. Michael Kitchen, president, speaks to the future installations going in: "We now have two on the books. A 325-foot tower will be going to LakePoint Sporting Community." This will be located just north of Atlanta, with completion expected in the fall of 2015. "The second one sold is 525 feet and is coming to Florida," says Kitchen, who wasn't able to reveal the exact location of the ride until the customer releases the information. He goes on to say each customer has numerous options to meet their needs as to whether the observation deck is one or two levels, as well as the overall height of the tower. Surprisingly, the spiraling lift at 45-degrees will utilize a chain lift. "This is a technological marvel in itself. We're very excited about it," smiles Kitchen. Also available, Skyspire is a gondola based version of the attraction without the coaster element.

Chance Rides is gearing up for a solid year. Angus Jenkins reports that the company's production schedule for 2014 is full, if not beyond full. On display at the booth was the sleek coaster car to appear on Kentucky Kingdom's new Lightning Run coaster. Jenkins says the design of the new



Kevin Rohwer of S&S (left) and Michael Kitchen of US Thrill Rides had much to be excited about as the partnership of companies had many new concepts on display.

AT/TIM BALDWIN

Hyper GT-X coaster concept — a non-inverting hyper like coaster at around 100 feet — has been in the works for some time, but the actual Kentucky Kingdom project has been seriously underway the last nine months. "With the redesign of the [coaster] car we can get tighter radiuses, and we lowered the center of the gravity. We can get into some 80-degree first drops and some 120-degree overbanked turns which we couldn't get with the longer car," says Jenkins. Talk among coaster enthusiasts at the show was predicting this new 100-foot tall coaster to be the sleeper hit of 2014.

Jenkins also reports that a new R60 wheel is in production for the East Coast as well as a customized Pharaoh's Fury designed to the Mayflower for Holiday World in Indiana. Also in Indiana is the SkyQuest, an aerial observation conveyance system headed to the Indianapolis Zoo. This particular attraction will go around the perimeter of the orangutan exhibit. Jenkins laughs, "They actually had to see how high an orangutan could jump." He says people are interested in the concept for new property developments that are looking for different conveyance systems. The company's line-up of flat rides are also in demand. "We see a lot of growth," says Jenkins. "It's been a great year; 2015 is filling up, too."

Joe Draves of Ride Centerline came in on the design work of Chance's
➔ See RIDES, page 46



Members of Martin & Vlemminckx Rides, Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters and The Gravity Group gathered for the announcement of four new wooden coasters to be built by M&V in China over the next 16 months.
AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT



Eric Dziedzic, general manager of Story Land (left) poses with Palace Entertainment's Michele Wischmeyer, Rolf Paegert and Fernando Eiroa and the coaster car headed for the park's Roar-O-Saurus designed by The Gravity Group.
COURTESY TURNSTILE INC.

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Kentucky coaster project after it was well underway. Praising the bulk of work by Alan Schilke, Draves predicts Kentucky Kingdom's new Hyper GT-X by Chance to really surprise audiences and be a perfect fit for the park. "I wanted a bigger drop to lead into the grand finale of the ride," says Draves. "I think this [100 feet] is the sweet spot for height. This is going to be an onslaught of pacing. There is going to be considerable airtime." He adds, "Ride Centerline did a complete new re-design vehicle for Chance, while Chance themselves did all the artistic development and the aesthetic trim." The ride will feature two 20-passenger trains. **Irvine Ondrey** did all the controls for the ride.

Rocky Mountain Construction, which also works with Ride Centerline, has gone from a young, up-and-coming company just a few short years ago to a sought-after superstar. With their project line-up quite full for the next three years, the company is humbled and feeling blessed with the great clientele they have established.

AT asked Fred Grubb of the enhancements of the coaster vehicle since its introduction last year. Improvements to the padding will be enjoyed by the guests, while tweaks to the panels allow for thematic details in the panel itself which will be appreciated by the parks. "Every park we sell to we can give a new theme and



This sleek new vehicle from Chance Rides is part of the new White Lightning coaster being built by the Wichita, Kan.-based company for Kentucky Kingdom's 2014 re-launch.

AT/TIM BALDWIN

maintain the structure," says Grubb in regard to the vehicle panels. Rocky Mountain unveiled the Goliath car going to Six Flags Great America to overall approval. Goliath will set all sorts of statistical records with a 180-foot first drop, fastest woodie at 72 mph, and steepest drop on a wooden coaster (85 degrees). In addition, Medusa at Six Flags Mexico will feature three inversions, one of which is right off the lift. The re-profile is along the lines of the Iron Rattler makeover successfully done this last season utilizing the I-box track. "We've made it faster," says Grubb about the Mexico project. Two barrel rolls are the other two inversions on the hybrid coaster.

Dynamic Attractions is enjoying a similar success. Younger than many companies on the floor, some of the freshest designs were coming from this firm. Pleased with two recent installations, Harold

Hudson was excited about the Dynamic Flying Theater, which takes guests from a horizontal plane into a vertical format enveloping them into the scope of the feature film. This is going to the Wanda Group with expectations to be shipped by the end of 2013. Dynamic Attractions also is providing a 100-seat rotating motion-based theater inside a 360-degree enclosure featuring 3D experiences. "There's nothing like that out there," says Hudson. "It's called Circle Motion." It is an invention of **Falcon's Treehouse** in which Dynamic Attractions have become involved in the manufacturing.

Perhaps more exciting is Dynamic Attractions' new Special Effects Coaster. Offering a different product in contrast to the tallest/fastest type of ride from other companies. "We're building coasters with special elements. **Dynamic Structures** has been famous for building high speed track switches for a lot of different rides. We have developed a coaster that utilizes that expertise of high-speed switches incorporated into the coaster. We're doing elements that have never been done before." Hudson goes on to explain that the ride can include a tilted drop, a vertical freefall drop, and a sideways slide of a piece of track. It really is particularly original on all accounts. It also uses an LSM launch system and can include a dark ride portion.

Vekoma is always a packed booth at the trade show, and the company's future projects will keep them quite busy. Of note, the world will see the 50th boomerang coaster next season. Charlotte van Etten

was uncertain which of the three going into Fantawild parks in China would actually be the world's 50th, but feels it is a notable distinction. The company's suspended family coaster continues to a popular choice from the Vekoma catalog with this past season seeing one in Orlando at the newly-expanded Fun Spot America and two new ones being installed in Korea and the Ukraine for next season. Other custom-designed coasters are already booked for 2015 and 2016 as well, including a motorbike coaster, launched coaster, suspended family coaster and a dive pretzel coaster. Vekoma has also partnered with Rocky Mountain Construction to represent their wooden coasters outside of the United States.

Van Etten was also pleased to see the introduction of the I-Ride in Vancouver, Canada this past season. The ride was titled Fly Over Canada. "Having this in Canada is a tremendous success. We are going to have a lot more units in the future," said van Etten. She commented that the first installation was in Taiwan, and joked, "People don't fly that easily to Taiwan." Even though she commented they had taken people there, she is pleased with the visibility and accessibility of the North American installation. The next I-Ride will be added in Sochi, Russia in 2014.

With a wide range of products on offer, **Intamin's** booth is also in demand. Sascha Czibulka, executive vice president, was extremely

pleased with Juvelen, the family launched coaster at Djurs this past season as it was more than what guests were expecting, as well as their tallest observation tower at the State Fair of Texas. A range of rides will be on tap for 2014. Among drop towers, Busch Garden's new drop tower will have passengers falling face forward parallel to the ground. While they have put in installations tilted at 20 degrees before, this is the first to take it to the next level with a complete horizontal position. The massive flume project at Phantasialand will also set some firsts for Intamin. "It will probably be one of the largest ones Intamin has ever built," says Czibulka. "It features a new kind of boat; a six-passenger boat with passengers single-line with individual restraints. It will feature a very steep final drop with a camelback." In all, the new flume will feature three drops, one of which is in the reverse direction. Rapids rides and spillwater rides are also selling.

In terms of coasters, Czibulka reports the company will open three new 10-inversion coasters updated with new trains and a cable-lift system. These will be in Europe, Asia and South America. And "the one in the United States we're not supposed to talk about," Czibulka says with a wry smile. He also reports 2015 in terms of coasters is getting full.

Mack Rides has a large range of projects for 2014 as well. Probably the most exciting project for the company is

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Brett Petit and Jose Garciduenas both with Six Flags Inc. try out the highly themed new Goliath car at the Rocky Mountain Construction booth.

AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT



Tao Huai, Peter Schnabel and Harold Hudson of Dynamic Attractions met with clients over impressive new concepts at the show.

AT/TIM BALDWIN

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Arthur — In the Minimoy's Kingdom at Europa-Park. Bob Dean of Leisure Labs that represents Mack says, "We've given people a teaser and thrown many people on the ride system, but we're not having any specific conversations until that one opens in April." Until then, Mack wasn't pushing the new ride concept at the 2013 show wanting people to come take in the full experience. The new ride will feature suspended dark ride sections and is capable of coaster-like portions.

Dean reports Mack is installing multiple coasters. "Big coasters," comments Dean. Liseberg's new LSM coaster, Helix, is included for 2014, as well as other Blue Fire-style coasters. Other Mack installations will include projects in China. A new concept on display was Drop and Splash. "We decided to take a small footprint splash ride. We're just getting the concept out there." Dean also says the company's spinning coaster was originally seen as a mid-size investment and now people are seeing them as larger installations.

Slated for 2014 for **Mondial** is the fully-transportable sky tower. While the standard size is 100-meters, larger sizes are still possible, all still remaining completely transportable. This new concept was extremely close to being sold at the show. A Windseeker at Adventureland in Des Moines and a RollOver at LaRonde are

also scheduled to be installed in 2014. Mondial is also introducing a new ride concept called Blender featuring a mix of ride motions with rotating gondolas.

Great Coasters International, Inc. made two announcements from the floor, appropriately entitled a "mini" announcement and a big announcement. The first was an unveiling of the company's first Mini Millennium Flyer coaster cars. As the first announcement from the show, just following the Kick-Off event, GCII reported that the first train of Mini Millennium Flyer cars would be debuting mere days later at Legoland Florida on the park's junior wooden coaster, now known as Coastersaurus. Chris Gray of Great Coasters says, "We've been talking about it for years. We actually had done several junior designs. We thought if it prodded enough interest back in the day then we could introduce a small junior car from us." Legoland looking for replacement trains prompted the new Mini Millennium Flyer cars from GCII. The styling to a car at the expo showcased thematic details toward an exploratory vehicle in a dinosaur theme.

The giant announcement was GCII's largest project to date approaching 5,000 feet. Contracting with the Wanda Group, Gray says, "We've been working with them for the past six to nine months. The first rendition of the ride layout was vastly different than what we ended up with. It's amazing. It is going to be one of the best rides we've ever done.



The team from Great Coasters International was joined by key figures from Legoland Florida to reveal the new Mini-Millennium Flyer, GCII's new junior coaster car, which was debuting on Legoland Florida's woodie days later during the show.

AT/TIM BALDWIN

It is dynamically everything that makes a roller coaster fun." The layout will include straightaways which is atypical for GCII. The ride will utilize a hillside terrain in Wanda City Theme Park in China with the final third of the ride taking off through the woods. Currently dubbed Viper, "It's going to be spectacular," beams Gray.

Larson is also having a full docket of projects lined up for the upcoming year. "The drop towers and Flying Scooters will probably come in equal for installations for 2014," says Jeff Novotny, owner. The company's signature loops have reached 110. "And we have a bunch of them lined up right now," adds Novotny. "Standard ones and giant ones. It's almost like a resurgence." Tilt-a-Whirls are also doing well, not only in terms of new ones, but servicing the more than 900 customers that own them.

Ride Entertainment Group represents various companies and interests, starting with **Gerstlauer**. Revealed on the first day of the show floor was the new vehicle headed to Dollywood on 2014's FireChaser Express. This dual launched family coaster will be the first family coaster to launch both forward and backward. Dollywood is also extremely pleased about the 39-inch height requirement. A new Euro-Fighter will be going into Morocco, and Prater in Austria will be receiving a custom family coaster, of which details were not released at the time of IAAPA. A family shuttle coaster will also debut in the U.S. in 2014.

Ride Operations Group is a relatively new branch of Ride

a new Star Flyer at Six Flags New England which will share the distinction of world's tallest swing ride with sister park Six Flags Over Texas.

In terms of **Sky Coasters**, Mark Rosenzweig, managing director of Sky Coaster attractions for REG, reports that a new single Sky Coaster can now be installed in 100-foot and 175-foot models with a half-arch. "It cantilevers out over the flightline and has eliminated an entire footing which obviously saves big money considering where you are located," he says. A new Sky Coaster opening in Copper Canyon in Mexico will allow guests to swing out over the canyon.

TrioTech had a full house of attendees wanting to try out one of its multiple theaters. One featured a ride vehicle seating six where guests continued to interact with multiple screens. TrioTech's Marie-Christine Babin is excited about the new IDR (interactive dark ride) line they are debuting in 2014. Ironically, in sharp contrast to the "destruction of assaulting zombies" at IAAPA, Babin explains one of the first installations of the IDR will be going to Hello Kitty Park in Shanghai, China. "We are currently working on a project at Canada's Wonderland called Wonder Mountain's Guardian," says Babin. "The first part of the ride will be outside of the mountain. Once you enter the mountain, you will begin the interactive story about a dragon." She points out that the Canadian themer

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Herschend CEO Joel Mamby joins Dollywood VP and GM Craig Ross in the new FireChaser Express car from Gerstlauer, which is headed to Tennessee next season.

AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT



Marie-Christine Babin and Christian Martin of TrioTech were pleased with the huge attention their booth was drawing, as well as a major new attraction from TrioTech going into Canada's Wonderland. AT/TIM BALDWIN

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will be featuring eight-seater cars on their dark ride. "This will be the longest interactive screen in the world." There will be 200 meters of 3D interactive screen, and TrioTech does all components — vehicles and visuals — inhouse. Babin also says there are immersive surprises in the ride that have never been done, but was committed to keeping them under wraps.

Fabbri had new concepts on tap for the future. Edward Cromheecke, vice president, explained they were seeing a big interest from Asia and South America. Two new concepts from Fabbri were called Skywalking and Propeller. Skywalking is an observation ride that takes the best aspects from Ferris wheels, observation towers and flying islands. "We have a platform made with the possibility to open and close the roof," says Cromheecke, in reference to a park gearing the attraction to the weather. Unlike most observation rides where people are seated, this new concept allows passengers to walk around. The Propeller doubles the capacity of the previous Booster with 32 seats as well as growing the height to 80 meters. Cromheecke is pleased to comment that it is the highest worldwide and the increased capacity will be more apt to attract the parks where the previous Boosters were

more commonly found on the fair circuit.

Kumbak Engineering had tremendous news for any park who has found their suspended looping coaster a little too much on the aggressive side. Timo Klaus was extremely excited about introducing a superior innovation to the restraint system. With research already successfully established with a re-do of Movie World Australia's suspended looping coaster, Klaus reports the park was elated that their No. 1 complaint from guests was completely eliminated, not even appearing in the top ten this past season. Kumbak's business is not creating new rides, but engineering solutions for rides that have issues and concerns.

Maurer Söhne, who has already installed rides endorsed by Ferrari, is now licensed to do rides themed to Porsche. A model at the IAAPA expo showcased an indoor/outdoor racing experience. A new installation in China for 2014 will feature Maurer's new X-Train, which will seat 24 passengers. Like a previous installation in Germany's Bayern Park, the new coaster will feature an LSM launch, followed by multi-inversions with much of the energy recaptured when the train hits the brakes, which is then utilized in the following launch.

Gina Guglielmi, who represents **abc Rides** in the U.S., reported that abc's new

Big Splash flume ride, such as the one recently installed at Freizeitpark Klotten, is a hot item for the company. The vertical lift features two platforms and a drop of 50 feet that features a small camelback into the splash runout. Other key installations have been a river splash ride at Freizeitpark Plohn, an interactive boat ride at Liseberg and a flume at Sea Life Abenteuer Park.

Moser Rides had activity at their booth surrounding the new Free Styler. This swinging circular ride simulates surfing as riders are safely secured in a standing position on surfboard-style platforms. "It comes in a variety of sizes, from FEC size to major park seating," says Guglielmi, who also represents Moser. "It's really a hot ride." Seating (or should you say standing?) configurations can range from four to 36. Moser also has introduced a new Dynamic Theater. A 60-seat theater system will be debuting in China. She says the same customer has also ordered a double system featuring a "standing" Dynamic Theater. Spring rides and tower rides are still a mainstay for the company. Installations will find their way to new homes reaching from Finland to San Antonio.

Zamperla had considerable flash at their booth with the return of the Air Race, which was offering rides to attendees on the floor. New for 2014 will be Thunderbolt at Luna Park in the Coney Island district of New York. A new vertical lift can help maximize space with a long and narrow footprint. The restraint utilized will comfortably be a lap bar restraint instead of over-the-shoulder. "A sensor on the lap bar will indicate if the rider is properly secured with the right pressure," says CEO Alberto Zamperla. He was also very pleased about his new Water Mania installation. "It was a great success," he says. The interactive water attraction debuted at Luna Park last season and will soon be added to Six Flags Over Texas.

In terms of flat rides, Cedar Point will be adding one of the company's Disk'O Coasters. Tea Cup and Demolition Derby continue to be big sellers, according to Zamperla. Of interesting news is that Zamperla has acquired an island in Italy for



Len Soled of Rides-4-U was ecstatic about the great sales from the show floor, particularly the SBF/Visa spinning coaster in operation at the Rides-4-U booth.

AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT

a development that will have three areas to a park. One area will have a Mardi Gras theme to keep the carnival atmosphere going year round. Another area will have a historical theme focusing on Venice, while the final one will have a nature focus.

Len Soled of **Rides-4-U** saw numerous orders coming in for the Spinning Coaster provided by SBF Visa. "What we're finding is all ages are riding this thing based on the size of the seat and the restraints located in the coaster," says Soled. Riders were lining up to take a spin — literally — and finding a lot of punch packed into a very small footprint, giving the impression of a much larger ride. Midway through the show, Soled said he had already sold three

for the next season: Daytona Lagoon, Silverwood and Western Playland. He expected more orders by the end of the show. "I see a fantastic interest for the carnival market. I see us selling an infinite amount of these coasters," he adds. Rides-4-U is in the process of modifying the compact coaster to make it mobile for the fair circuit and give it more flash.

Rides-4-U also represents **KMG**. Soled says two rides were sold on the show floor: a portable Freak Out and an Experience.

Another drop tower, Drop 'N Twist, ride by **SBF** was also on the show floor. "We've sold several of these to parks as well." The pneumatic version of Drop 'N Twist on the floor was sold to Quad City minor

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Zamperla's new Thunderbolt looping coaster is set to debut at Coney Island's Luna Park this spring.

AT/TIM BALDWIN



Mack had an experimental concept of a rocking splashwater ride. A themed model was on display.

AT/TIM BALDWIN

IAAPA 2013 - ORLANDO

Waterpark suppliers have another spectacular year

STORY: Jeffrey L. Seifert
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ORLANDO, Fla. — Although we are not seeing the amazing innovation experienced in the last few years, creativity among waterpark-related attractions remains the dominant

force in formulating new products and experiences. Manufacturers are taking tried-and-true individual products and turning them into multiple elements to be combined into a single waterpark attraction. Instead of having riders queue up for a multi-person raft slide, then

a bowl ride and then a funnel, now all three can be combined to deliver one breathtaking experience. Add in some LED lighting effects and patrons can get soaked and dazzled at the same time.

As an example, **ProSlide Technology** won the Brass Ring Best New Product Award in the Water Park category for the ProSlide HydroMagnetic Tornado. This attraction combines two previous Brass Ring Award-winning attractions — the popular Tornado funnel slide with a Hydromagnetic Mammoth that uses linear induction motors (LIMs) to propel rafts uphill before — or even after — dropping through a Tornado funnel.

Asking ProSlide founder and Chief Executive Office Rick Hunter what he is most looking forward to in 2014 is a bit like asking a father to choose a favorite from among 45 different children. ProSlide is the supplier for a number of new waterparks, in addition to repeat business from many of their satisfied clients. Among those Hunter mentioned are new products for SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment, Six Flags Entertainment, Palace Entertainment and numerous venues in China. Hunter was also looking forward to the opening of Wet 'n' Wild in Sydney in December 2013, which, at the time, was just a few weeks away from the IAAPA Expo.

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ProSlide's exhibit space included this glass cabinet full of awards that have been presented to the company. At left, company CEO Rick Hunter shows how the company's many products can be integrated by showing scale models.

AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT



WhiteWater Attractions' latest concepts include (above) a futuristic play structure with curving ziplines, a video-screen-like waterslide tube (right) illuminated with LEDs and (below) a raft battle ride concept from Hopkins Rides.



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league baseball team. Rides-4-U has even sold an eight lane giant slide to the NFL for the Super Bowl. It was currently being set up at Giant Stadium at the time of the trade show.

Zierer saw a shift in their orders for 2014. "It's a good mixture of everything at the moment. In 2012 it was a concentration of coasters. Now it has returned to a mix of everything," comments Marina Ernst-Weiderer, marketing. She reports on a three-ride package that opened in Istanbul this past season as a great success. When *AT* asked how long the company had

produced the popular Wave Swinger, Ernst-Weiderer says Zeirer has manufactured them for around 40 years and has more than 200 installations worldwide. Four more are on tap for 2014. While much of next season's installations could not be divulged at the show, the product line-up was a wide range with clients in North America, Europe and Asia. Two popular sellers are Kontiki and Jet Skis, in addition to coasters.

B&M, always quiet when it comes to discussing their future projects, is seeing a return of their most prolific coaster genre to the U.S. after an eight-year absence. Patriot at Worlds of Fun was the last

inverted coaster by B&M to make a stateside landing back in 2006. In 2014, Kings Island's Banshee will see a return of this well-loved product, but with a few new improvements to the restraints. "I am excited to put an inverted coaster in again. The location at Kings Island is fantastic. It is through the woods," comments Walter Bolliger. "We are going down into the valley, so we have very large inversions." One unique factor is that the fastest part of the ride will actually occur in the middle of the layout. B&M has also announced another installation of their latest product, the wing coaster. This one will debut in 2014 at Heide Park in Germany.



Catching up on industry happenings at the Amusement Today booth were Bolliger & Mabillard's Walter Bolliger (left) and San Diego Coaster Company's Dana Morgan.
COURTESY NRCMA/RICHARD MUNCH

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In addition to the raft slides and combinations, of which ProSlide has multiple sizes and configurations, the body slide is regaining popularity as a result of the Skybox drop capsule technology.

The **WhiteWater West** display served as a central location surrounded by the displays of its subsidiary companies: **Hopkins Rides**, **Prime Interactives** and **Apptivations**, all integrated into **WhiteWater Attractions**. All four exhibits were a flurry of activity. Julie Zakus, marketing director, said the opening of Yas Waterworld in Abu Dhabi was one of the company's most exciting projects of the past year. She is also proud of the new slide that combines a Family Boomerango with a Manta. Nagashima Spa Land in Japan actually opened two such attractions side-by-side with a capacity of 720 guests per hour.

Attracting the most attention was an LED filled waterslide tube that was for all intents and purposes a tubular video wall capable of producing an endless array of colors and patterns along with sound. Slide mats equipped with color buttons challenge riders to press the correct color button as the band of color reaches their mat. Scores can be displayed at the end of the slide to show each rider how accurate they were during their ride.

Prime Interactives was showing off a unique play structure that had straight zip lines and curved and spiraling zip lines coming off a futuristic play structure. The structure was still in the concept stage, but Zakus said that it should be ready to market soon.

In addition to the flumes, shoot the chutes and rapids rides for which Hopkins Rides is famous, the company was showing a model of a raft battle that utilizes Hopkins' water transportation system combined with water pistols. Overhead walkways and spectators also armed with water pistols insure that everyone has soaking good time.

Polin Waterparks & Pool Systems continues to dominate the European market. Sohret Pakis, recently promoted to director of marketing & communications, said one of her favorite projects from 2013 is Aquacolors Poreč in Istria, Croatia, which is nearing completion and scheduled to open in May. For 2014 an Aquapark in Illichivsk, Ukraine, is a substantial project developed from the ground up with over 40 water attractions including a King Cobra, Space Shuttle and sphere slides.

In Thailand, Polin is supplying cartoon-themed waterslides for Cartoon Network Amazone a project of Thaliand-based developer Amazon Falls in collaboration with Turner Broadcasting Asia Pacific, the owner and operator of Cartoon Network. Cartoon Network Amazone



Sohret Pakis (left) of Polin stands next to a scale model (above) showing the colorful offerings from Polin Waterparks & Pool Systems.
AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT

is scheduled to open in 2014. Pakis is also looking forward to the completion of the Cowabunga Bay in Henderson, Nevada, just outside of Las Vegas. Although Polin has supplied slides to the U.S. in the past, this is the first complete waterpark that Polin has supplied in the U.S. All of the product is there and ready for installation. Co-developer Shane Huish ran into a few difficulties with caliche just under the soil, and problems

with one of the partners of the in the project. The waterpark, originally planned to open in 2013, is now scheduled to open in May, 2014.

SplashTacular, the largest U.S.-based waterslide manufacturer had two marquee installations for 2013 — the Bonzai Pipeline drop-capsule tube slides at Six Flags New England and Six Flags America. Alex Weidman, president, said the play unit division is growing exponentially with over 20 installations last season, and at least that many already contracted for next year, including a million dollar unit going into a waterpark in Arkansas. With over 60 percent growth from 2012 to 2013 the company is focusing its sales on what they currently offer, and at this point isn't going to offer any new products for 2014, although there are new designs and innovations in the works for future years. Some of the bigger projects for 2014 include an installation in Georgia.

Somewhat of a newcomer to the waterslide market is **Avalanche Waterslides**. The company previously supplied steel structures for other

waterslide manufacturers but recently branched out on its own to supply a complete turnkey product. Avalanche specializes in small to medium municipal and commercial markets. A new Ava-Coat fiberglass coating offers a 10-year fade resistant warranty.

Texas-based **CPI Amusement** was having a good show. As a longtime supplier of top-quality tubes and rafts for both the waterpark and amusement industry, CPI didn't have much to report. As the waterpark industry continues to expand so too will the need for waterpark accessories.

The same holds true for **Zebec Water Sports**, another USA-based longtime waterpark and theme park accessory supplier. Within Zebec's unique display space was a pear-shaped slide tube that offers support for the rider's back and helps keep the tube facing forward as it traverses the curves of a waterslide. This should prove popular for waterpark thrillseekers who don't like to end up going backward down a tube chute.

As we've seen in the last several years, the waterpark industry continues to experience remarkable growth. Whether its adding innovative new products or relying on tried-and-true waterslides the industry shows no signs of slowing down. According to ProSlide's Rick Hunter "This is an amazing time in the waterpark industry."

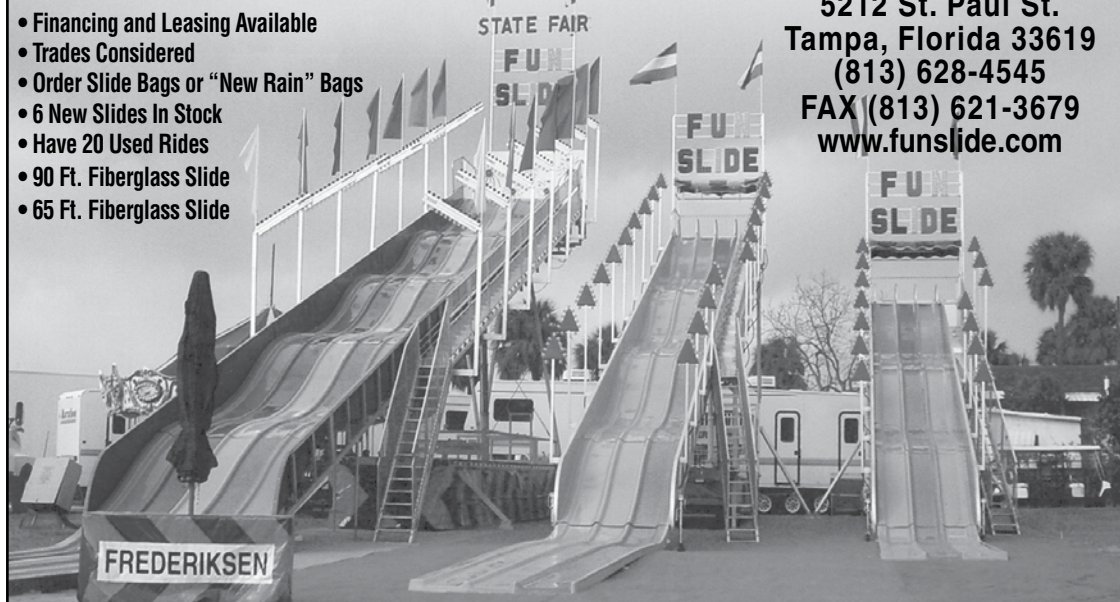


Zebec's newly introduced pear-shaped tube will help keep riders facing forward in a water tube chute.

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IAAPA 2013 - ORLANDO

Games, food, other products provide extra facility revenue

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — Large rides and attractions may draw crowds to amusement facilities, but extra sources of revenue such as games, food and even ropes courses and ziplines may keep them there and even put some facilities' coffers over the top.

Venturing out onto the 2013 IAAPA trade show floor, there was an array of these types of exhibitors. Some of the products being exhibited can be used as additional services such as **Kay Park Recreation Corporation's** new concrete ping-pong table. Kay Park's Mailee Gray said the table, which was getting a really good workout at the show, was made of coated steel so it could stay outside without damage.

This type of product could be an additional service to a campground or other recreational venue or it could be an additional source of income to these and other amusement facilities.

Bob's Space Racers debuted its new Jumpin' Monkeys six-player trailer game, and new Dolphin Dip game. New designs of the Puppy Jump (the new arcade unit looks like a dog house), Pick a Penguin (based on the Lucky Duck), and the Clownin' Around water game were also rolled out in time for the Expo.

American Locker introduced new software at the 2013 IAAPA Expo, allowing for



Bob's Space Racers new Jumpin' Monkeys (left) six-player trailer game was exhibited at the 2013 IAAPA Expo. Bob's Space Racers also exhibited its new Dolphin Dip game as well as new designs of the Puppy Jump, Pick a Penguin, and the Clownin' Around water game. Striker, shown above, was popular with attendees. STRIKER AT/TIM BALDWIN; ALL PHOTOS AT/PAM SHERBORNE

more flexibility in its new user interface cell phone-charging locker. The company's Pete Collins said the unit is ideal for waterparks, ski slopes and other amusement facilities. It can be offered as an additional service or turn into a new revenue stream for a venue.

After realizing that something could be offered to patrons standing in line for

up to three hours at Natural Bridge Caverns, Brian Vauter said officials at the attraction installed a climbing structure first, then for this past season installed a new ropes course and ziplines.

"By doing this, we created a whole new stream of revenue," Vauter told a room of IAAPA attendees during a panel education session.



Above, Deborah Knowles, representing Calico Cottage Inc., displayed a variety of fudge flavors and gave out information about the turnkey operation which is a definite extra revenue booster. At left, Ryan and Adina Turney, Lip Labz, were first-time exhibitors at the 2013 IAAPA Expo. The two were very pleased with the response to their product which features 30 plus flavors.



It has been very successful. **Picsolve** is a company that provides world class imagery capture and distribution platforms enabling retailing solutions for the leisure, theme park and tourist industries allowing consumers to keep and share their memories with friends and family via print and digital product suites. It also provides another

opportunity for an additional revenue stream. The company was exhibiting its product at the IAAPA show. It offers customers both still photography as well as digital video.

There are always the tried-and-true offers, games, plush, and food. Here, through photos, are additional products seen on the trade show floor.



Gold Medal Products was exhibiting an array of food units including this popular caramel corn popper. The company's Bo Wilson alluded to something new for the 2014 while at the 2013 show, but said they weren't ready to release the information.



Rhode Island Novelty's Joe Rinaldi said plush sales were brisk at this year's IAAPA show. Popular this year were the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle, Bubble Guppies, a Jim Henson property Dinosaur Train, and camouflage ducks.



Greg Gall with Amaze 'n Mazes was exhibiting his company's new wood posts steel top frames on their portable mazes. The company also offers ropes courses along with the mazes.



Toy Factory was exhibiting an array of its plush including their line of Despicable Me 2 plush along with the M&M characters, the Pokemon characters, Adventure Time characters and generic rainbow plush.

Mamon assumes role as 2014 IAAPA chairman of the board

IAAPA announces new board members and officers

ORLANDO, Fla. — The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) announced that **Mario O. Mamon**, chairman and president of Enchanted Kingdom (EK) in the Philippines, will chair the worldwide trade association's board of directors in 2014. He is the first member from the Asia-Pacific region to chair the association in its 95-year history. IAAPA member companies operate amusement parks and attractions in 100 countries around the globe.

Mamon has been involved in the attractions industry since 1992 when he conceptualized

and managed the construction of the Enchanted Kingdom theme park. In 1999, Mamon, Enchanted Kingdom's chairman of the board, was also named president and CEO.

Since 1992, Mamon has been an active volunteer in IAAPA. He has been a speaker at several of the association's trade shows in Asia and was a member of the IAAPA board of directors from 1999 to 2002 and again since 2011. He was also a member of the membership committee, the conference and trade show advisory committee, service awards committee, Asian Attractions Expo education committee, governance task force, strategic planning committee, and is the



Mario Mamon

immediate past chair of the association's advisory committee for the Asia-Pacific region.

2014 IAAPA officers

The IAAPA board of directors elected the following officers for the organization for

2014:

First Vice Chairman: **Gerardo Arteaga**, general manager, Fantasilandia, Chile; Second Vice Chairman: **John McReynolds**, senior vice president, Universal Parks and Resorts, U.S.; IAAPA Treasurer: **Rob Norris**, president, Seabreeze, U.S. and IAAPA President and CEO: **Paul Noland**

New board members

The following IAAPA members were elected to the board of directors at the association's annual business meeting on Nov. 18:

Elected for a three-year term are: European Advisory Committee chairman director: **Andreas Andersen**, Liseberg, Sweden; North American

Advisory Committee chairman director: **Richard Sanfilippo**, Sam's Fun City, U.S.; At-Large Facility Director: **Jim Pattison Jr.**, Ripley Entertainment, U.S.; At-Large Facility Director: **David Rosenberg**, Monterey Bay Aquarium, U.S.; Manufacturer and Supplier Director: **Sascha Czibulka**, Intamin, Lichtenstein and Past Chair Representing the Advisory Board Director: **Dennis Spiegel**, International Theme Park Services, U.S.

Elected for a two-year term are: Asia Pacific Advisory Committee Chairman Director: **Rachmat Sutiono**, P.T. Funworld, Indonesia and Latin American Advisory Committee Chairman Director: **Julio Vanegas**, Carruseles, SA, Colombia.

Jim Seay, Julio Vanegas, Doug Stagner receive Service Awards

ORLANDO, Fla. — The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) presented 2013 IAAPA Service Awards for extraordinary contributions to the global attractions industry to **Jim Seay** of Premier Rides Inc. in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.; **Julio Vanegas** of Carruseles, S.A. in Bogota, Colombia; and **Doug Stagner** of SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Orlando, Florida, U.S.

The awards were presented at the GM and Owners' Breakfast, Nov. 20, in Orlando, Florida, during IAAPA Attractions Expo 2013. The winners:

Lifetime Service Award Jim Seay, Premier Rides Baltimore, Md.

The Lifetime Service Award recognizes a member, individual, or organization's continual service to the attractions industry.

Jim Seay brought his aerospace engineering expertise to the attractions industry in 1988 as an engineering and maintenance executive for Six Flags Corporation. In 1996 he became president of Premier Rides with a focus on ride



Jim Seay

innovation and customer service. Seay and his team helped develop the Linear Induction Motor and Linear Synchronous Motor-powered roller coaster. He has been an active industry volunteer serving on the IAAPA board of directors and chairman of IAAPA's Safety Committee. He has also been a member of the association's Executive-Finance, Service Awards, and Government Relations Committees. Seay is a passionate industry safety advocate; has testified before Congress regarding industry safety; and has served as Chairman of the ASTM International F24 Global Committee on ride safety standards.



Julio Vanegas

Outstanding Service Award Julio Vanegas, Carruseles S.A., Bogota, Colombia

The Outstanding Service Award is presented in recognition of a member individual who works to foster the spirit of goodwill, professionalism, and higher levels of performance within the industry.

Julio Vanegas has made it his mission to promote the development of the attractions industry in Colombia and throughout Latin America for more than two decades. Soon after founding the Colombian Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (AC-OLAP) in 2005, Vanegas was influential in the development of the first safety



Doug Stagner

law in Latin America based on ASTM F24 International standards committee recommendations — setting an example for the entire region. As general manager of Carruseles S.A., Vanegas is currently chairman of IAAPA's Latin American Advisory Committee, has served on IAAPA's Strategic Planning Committee, the association's Governance Task Force, and as a member of the IAAPA board of directors.

Meritorious Service Award Doug Stagner, SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Orlando, Fla.

The Meritorious Service Award is presented in recognition of a member indi-

vidual's service to and for the association by advancing the IAAPA mission.

Doug Stagner's leadership in attractions operations, safety, and guest relations has helped facilities around the world build their businesses and establish the amusement industry's reputation for delivering high-quality experiences to guests of all ages. Drawing on his experience as corporate senior director of operations at SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Stagner has chaired numerous IAAPA committees since 1999, including the Facility Operations and Education Committees, and has served as a guest speaker on safety and customer service at IAAPA conferences and events around the world. Fostering the development of the next generation of attractions industry professionals around the globe, Stagner lead creation of the IAAPA Institute for Attractions Managers, revamped the IAAPA Institute for Executive Education, and worked tirelessly to develop IAAPA's new professional certification programs.

IAAPA 2013 - ORLANDO

John Wood, Jim and John Huish inducted into IAAPA Hall of Fame

ORLANDO, Fla. — At the IAAPA Attractions Expo the association inducted dark ride developer **John Wood** and the forefathers of the family entertainment center industry (FEC) **Jim** and **John Huish** into the IAAPA Hall of Fame. The IAAPA Hall of Fame honors legends and pioneers for their significant and lasting contributions to the worldwide attractions industry. The awards were presented on Nov. 19 in Orlando, Florida, during the Kickoff Event at the annual expo.

"The 2013 IAAPA Hall of Fame inductees are an inspiration to the global attractions industry," said Ron Gustafson, 2013, chairman of the IAAPA Hall of Fame and Archives Committee and director of marketing and public relations for Quassy Amusement Park in Middlebury, Connecticut. "From reinvigorating family dark rides around the world by adding interactivity to expanding miniature golf courses with arcades and attractions, these three individuals revolutionized the attractions industry."

John Wood,
Sally Corporation,
Jacksonville, Fla., U.S.

As CEO of Sally Corporation, John Wood's ideas and creativity revived dark ride attractions and filled a niche market around the world.



Wood

During the 1980s when roller coasters were in high demand, Wood added the interactive element of a moving shooting gallery and modern technology to traditional dark rides. He also added music, sound effects, and modern scenic design. In 1986, when the first Sally Corporation ride opened at Alton Towers in Staffordshire, England, there were a limited number dark ride attractions functioning in the world. Today, there are 57 entertaining guests in 14 countries.

John and Jim Huish,
Huish Family Entertainment,
Tukwila, Wash., U.S.

Twin brothers John and Jim Huish are considered to

be forefathers of modern-day family entertainment centers. As freshman in college in 1957, the young entrepreneurs built and opened a small miniature golf course, using packed sawdust for the fairways and greens. John and Jim spent the next 20 years building and operating a se-

ries of miniature golf courses across Central and Southern California, which evolved into the influential chain of Huish Family Fun Centers. They added game rooms to the facilities in the mid-to-late 1960s and billiards tables shortly thereafter. By the mid 1970s the Huish brothers es-

tablished J&J Amusements, a premier supplier of go-karts and bumper boats and they built a center that included miniature golf courses, batting cages, game rooms, and trampolines. In the early 1980s they added outdoor skate parks and go-kart tracks to the list of facilities they de-

veloped before Jim was killed in a construction accident in 1984. John forged ahead for the next 30 years, acquiring or building a nationwide chain of waterparks and family entertainment centers as well as the Bullwinkle's Restaurant Franchise.

IAAPA Hall of Fame

2013

John Wood, Sally Corporation
Jim and John Huish, Huish Family Entertainment

2012

Bob Masterson, Ripley Entertainment
PT Barnum, The American Museum

2011

John P.C. Collins, John Collins Leisure, U.K.
Frederick W. Pearce, Sr., F.W. Pearce Company
Wally Boag and **Betty Taylor**, Disneyland

2010

Bob Rogers, BRC Imagination Arts
Will Koch, Holiday World & Splashin' Safari
Don Clayton, Putt-Putt Golf and Games
Daniel H. Burnham, Chicago World's Fair

2009

Frederic W. Thompson and **Elmer "Skip" Dundy**, Luna Park
Ricardo Castillo Sinibaldi, Xetulul and Xocomil, Guatemala

2008

Larry Cochran, Six Flags Theme Parks, Inc.
Edgard Meeus, Walibi World, Belgium
Arto Monaco, Santa's Workshop & The Land of Make Believe

2007

Richard "Dick" Nunis, Walt Disney World

2006

Harry C. Baker, Harry Baker, Inc.
Richard L. Kinzel, Cedar Fair

2005

Antonio Zamperla, Zamperla, Italy
Franz Mack, Mack Rides, Germany

2004

Richard J. "Dick" Coulter, Coulter & Associates
Geoffrey Thompson, Blackpool Pleasure Beach, England
Peter Herschend, Herschend Family Entertainment
Jack Herschend, Herschend Family Entertainment

2003

Roberto Brenes Ortiz, Parque de Diversiones, Costa Rica
Werner Stengel, Ing. Buro Stengel GmbH, Germany

2002

Leon Cassidy, Tumbling Run Park
Rudyard Uzzell, R.S. Uzzell Corp.
Marty Sklar, Walt Disney Imagineering Co.

2001

William A. Koch, Sr., Holiday World/Splashin' Safari
Wilbert Morey, Morey's Pier
J. Henk Bemboom, Poneypark Slagharen, Holland
John Graff, IAAPA

2000

Jack Ray, Belmont Park
Frederick Savage, Frederick Savage Co., England
Ron Toomer, Arrow Dynamics Inc.

1999

Dick Pope, Sr., Cypress Gardens
Herbert Schmeck, Philadelphia Toboggan Company
A. J. Florizoone, Meli-Park, Belgium
Jay Stein, Universal Studios (Florida)
Giovanni Zanoletti, Fionda, Italy

1998

Frank Woolson Darling, L.A. Thompson Scenic Railway
Charles T. Thompson, Six Flags Corporation
Roy O. Disney, The Walt Disney Co.
Karl Bacon, Arrow Development Co.
Ed Morgan, Arrow Development Co.

1997

George Boeckling, Cedar Point
Paul Boyton, Capt. Paul Boyton's Water Chutes
William E. Sullivan, Eli Bridge Company
Eric McMillan, Ontario Place, Canada

1996

John Norman Bartlett, Miller & Bartlett Company
Frederick Church, Prior & Church
Salvador Andreu Y Grau, Tibidabo Amusement Park, Spain
Bo Kinttorph, Liseberg, AB, Sweden

1995

Fred Fried, National Carousel Association
Anton F. Pieck, Efteling, the Netherland
Herbert Ryman, Disneyland
George C. Tilyou, Coney Island
Harrison Price, Harrison Price Company

1994

Pat Collins, Pat Collins Shows, England
George Hamid, Steel Pier (Atlantic City)
Theodore Harton, West View Park
Allan Herschell, Allan Herschell Company, Inc.
C. V. "Woody" Wood, Jr., Warner Bros.
George Millay, Wet 'n Wild, Inc.

1993

James F. "Patty" Conklin, Conklin Shows, Canada
Randall Duell, Duell Corporation
Milton Hershey, Hersheypark
John A. Miller, John Miller Company
Anton Schwarzkopf, Roller Coaster Designer, Germany
Aurel Vaszin, National Amusement Device Company

1992

George Washington Gale Ferris, G. W. G. Ferris Co.
Frederick Ingersol, Frederick Ingersoll & Sons
William F. Mangels, W. F. Mangels Co., Inc.
George Roose, Cedar Point
Harry G. Traver, Traver Engineering Company
Charles R. Wood, The Great Escape
Truman Woodworth, Cedar Point & Disneyland

1991

Harry J. Batt, Sr., Ponchatrain Park
David E. Bradley, Bradley & Kaye Amusement Company,
Edward J. Carroll, Sr., Riverside Park
R. Harold Chance, Chance Manufacturing Company, Inc.
Walter Knott, Knott's Berry Farm
Leonard Thompson, Blackpool Pleasure Beach, England

1990

John Allen, Philadelphia Toboggan Company
Walt Disney, Walt Disney World Co.
Robert E. Freed, Lagoon Corp.
Andrew S. McSwigan, Kennywood Park Corporation
La Marcus A. Thompson, L.A. Thompson Scenic Railway Co.
Angus Wynne Jr., Six Flags Corporation
Carl Hughes, Kennywood Park Corporation

Annual Brass Ring Award winners announced

ORLANDO, Fla. — Hundreds of attractions industry professionals from amusement parks, waterparks, family entertainment centers, zoos, aquariums, science centers, museums, and more packed the IAAPA Theater for the IAAPA Brass Ring Awards ceremony honoring the industry's best and brightest. The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions presented 69 awards recognizing excellence in marketing, live entertainment, food and beverage, human resources, retail, family entertainment centers, best new product, and best exhibit during the IAAPA Attractions Expo, on Nov. 20 in Orlando, Fla.

The tradition of the brass ring in the attractions industry dates back to the carousels of the late 1800s when rings were suspended above riders; low enough to reach but high enough to pose a challenge. Most rings were made of iron, so grabbing the brass ring was the rare and cherished prize. Skilled riders who grabbed a brass ring earned a second ride on the carousel. Today, the term "brass ring" is synonymous with high achievement in the attractions industry.

The 2013 IAAPA Brass Ring Awards Winners are:

MARKETING EXCELLENCE

*Some marketing awards are divided into the following class distinctions:

Class 1: Family Entertainment Centers (FECs) and attractions with annual attendance less than 250,000; Class 2: Zoos and aquariums; Class 3: Amusement parks and attractions — including waterparks — with annual attendance of 250,001-1 million and Class 4: Amusement parks and attractions — including waterparks — with annual attendance of more than 1 million.

Television Commercial

Class 1: **Spokane Riverfront Park**, Spokane, Wash.; Class 2: **St. Louis Zoo**, St. Louis, Mo.; Class 3: **Six Flags Hurricane Harbor/Arlington**, Arlington, Texas; Class 4: **Silver Dollar City**, Branson, Mo.

Radio Commercial

Class 1: **Santa's Vil-**

lage Azoosment Park, East Dundee, Ill.; Class 2: **Columbus Zoo and Aquarium**, Columbus, Ohio; Class 3: **Wet 'n Wild Brazil**, Sao Paulo, Brazil; Class 4: **Silver Dollar City**, Branson, Mo.

Public Relations Programming

Class 1: **Scene75 Entertainment Center**, Dayton, Ohio; Class 2: **Cleveland Metroparks Zoo**, Cleveland, Ohio; Class 3: **Luna Park at Coney Island**, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Class 4: **Six Flags Great America**, Gurnee, Ill.

Social Media Campaign

Calgary Stampede, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Outdoor Advertising

Xel-Ha, Cancun, Mexico

Integrated Marketing Campaign

San Diego Zoo, San Diego, Calif.

Digital Marketing

Ocean Park Hong Kong, Aberdeen, Hong Kong

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT EXCELLENCE

The **Heart Beat Award** recognizes the show that demonstrates superior overall ability in reaching the hearts of its audience. Winner: **The Passion, The Holy Land Experience**, Orlando, Fla.

The **Spirit Award** recognizes IAAPA members committed to excellence in training and professional development in the area of entertainment. Winner: **Lau Sui Kan, Ocean Park Hong Kong**, Aberdeen, Hong Kong

Best Atmosphere/Street Show Performance Act

"Cocoa Rhythm Factory," **Hersheypark**, Hershey, Pa.

Best Live Edutainment Show

"The Ed-ZOO-cation Team," **Hersheypark**, Hershey, Pa.

Best Sports Show

"Pirate Hunters: A Stunt Show Journey," **Six Flags America**, Upper Marlboro, Md.

Best Female Performer

Kristina Hanford, **Six Flags**

Fiesta Texas, San Antonio, Texas

Best Male Performer

Garyon Judon, **Six Flags Fiesta Texas**, San Antonio, Texas

Best Overall Production:

[Budget of:]

\$25,000 or Less

"The Four Women Who Loved Jesus," **Holy Land Experience**, Orlando, Fla.

\$25,001 – \$50,000

"Waterloo," **Europa-Park**, Rust, Baden, Germany

\$50,001 – \$100,000

"Love at First Fright," **Six Flags Great America**, Gurnee, Ill.

\$100,001 – \$200,000

"Supr'Ice – Going on Vacation," **Europa-Park**, Rust, Baden, Germany

\$200,001 – \$400,000

"Cirque Ambiente," **Canada's Wonderland**, Vaughn, Ontario, Canada

\$400,001 – \$700,000

"Aqua Bella," **Dolfinarium Harderwijk**, Harderwijk, The Netherlands

\$700,001 – \$1,000,000

"The Royal Theatre Presents Tangled," **Disneyland**, Anaheim, Calif.

\$1,000,001 or More

"Universal Rainbow Circus," **Universal Studios Japan**, Osaka, Japan

FOOD AND BEVERAGE EXCELLENCE

Best Innovation in Food and Beverage

Be Our Guest Restaurant, **Walt Disney Parks and Resorts**, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Best New Menu Item

Red Velvet Funnel Cake, **Silver Dollar City**, Branson, Mo.

HUMAN RESOURCES EXCELLENCE

Best Innovation in a Training Program

[by attendance]

More Than 1 Million

Universal Orlando Resort, Orlando, Fla.

Less Than 1 Million

Wild Wadi Water Park, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Best Employee Reward and Recognition Program

[by attendance]

More Than 1 Million

Atlantis, the Palm, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Less Than 1 Million
Yas Waterworld Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

RETAIL EXCELLENCE

[by attendance]

Soft Good/

More Than 1 Million

Ngong Ping 360 Limited, Lantau Island, Hong Kong

Soft Good/

Less Than 1 Million

Luna Park Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Hard Good/

More Than 1 Million

Disney Theme Park Merchandise, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Hard Good/

Less Than 1 Million

Shop Shop Park Store (at Beach Park), Aquiraz, Brazil

Visual Display/

More Than 1 Million

Disney Theme Park Merchandise, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Visual Display/

Less Than 1 Million

Holy Land Experience, Orlando, Fla.

Judges Choice Award

"Princess Magic Mirror,"

Disney Theme Park Merchandise, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

TOP FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS (FEC)

North America

Austin's Park N Pizza, Pflugerville, Texas

International

Neverland Europa, Zaragoza, Argentina

BEST NEW PRODUCT

The **Impact Award** recognizes the best new product or service in the amusement parks and attractions industry.

Winner: 1st Attractions, Safari Challenge/Deadly Challenge, South Wales, United Kingdom

Major Theme/Amusement

Park Ride/Attraction

Extreme Engineering, Fly Wire Zip Line Ride, Penryn, Calif.

Kiddie Ride/Attraction

Bob's Space Racers, Inc., Bob's Fishin Hole, Daytona Beach, Fla.

Waterpark Ride/

Attraction

ProSlide Technology, Inc., HydroMagnetic Tornado, Otawa, Ontario, Canada

Family Entertainment Center Ride/Attraction

Triotech, 7D Experience XD Dark Ride, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Coin-Operated

Kiddie Ride

Falgas Industries, Racing Car Challenge, Castelló d'Empúries, Girona, Spain

Technology Applied to Amusement

1st Attractions, Safari Challenge/Deadly Challenge, South Wales, United Kingdom

Coin-Operated Arcade & Redemption Equipment

J.E.T. Jennison Entertainment Technologies, Daytona Beach, Fla.

Revenue & Admission

Control/Wristbands/

RFID Technology

VGS, SnApp, Milan, Italy

Services/Equipment and Supplies

opticwash, opticwash, Ocala, Fla.

Games and Merchandise

Big T Sports, 3-D Man Cave Foam Signs, Riverside, Calif.

Food Services

Scaras New York Italian Ices, Scaras 8 oz. Chocolate Cream Ice, Old Bridge, N.J.

Show Production & Entertainment/

Displays & Sets

Winterland Inc. and LED-gen Lighting, Holiday Displays, Marion, Ind.

Themed Exhibit Design for

Zoos, Aquariums,

& Museums

Billings Productions, Inc., Giant Animatronic Invertebrates, Allen, Texas

BEST EXHIBIT AT IAAPA

ATTRATIONS EXPO 2013

The **Image Award** given to the best exhibit based on booth design, branding, staffing, and overall appeal at IAAPA Attractions Expo.

Winner: Daniels Wood Land, Inc., Paso Robles, Calif.

100 – 299 square feet

Artistic Contractors, Inc., Jacksonville, Fla.

300 – 599 square feet

Sally Corporation, Jacksonville, Fla.

600 – 1,099 square feet

Gary Goddard Entertainment, North Hollywood, Calif.

1,100 + square feet

Daniels Wood Land, Inc., Paso Robles, Calif.



MIDWAY

CARNIVALS

STATE FAIRS

REVENUE

SUPPLIERS

2013 IAFE annual convention and trade show a success

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The 2013 International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) annual convention and trade show was held Dec. 8-12 at Paris and Bally's hotels, Las Vegas.

This was the 99th annual event for the association and it was a big one with the 391-booth trade show sold out indicating the largest trade show in the association's history.

There were 290 plus exhibiting companies.

The annual convention not only includes the trade show, but also includes an abundance of workshops and seminars, as well as networking opportunities.

A highlight this year included the Young Professionals Initiative (YPI), which brings together fair staff and volunteers age 40 years or younger for leadership development, education and mentoring. The 2013 convention was to feature a number of YPI activities including work-



shops and social activities.

Other highlights included the exceptional educational program. Some of the seminar topics that were to be discussed included: School-based Agricultural Education: It's Not Your Father's Ag Ed Anymore; Creating a Positive Buzz; Symposium — Emergency Planning; USDA's Animal Disease Traceability Rule — What Does It Mean to You; Trained Crowd Managers: Required? (Probably.) Necessary? (Absolutely!); Dream Big on Small Budgets — Technology Security Enhancements for Events; and Mobile Apps for Consumer Events: Raising the Bar for Fan Engagement.

Workshops

topics

included: Dream Big on Small Budgets - Maintenance Dream Volunteers — How To Ignite Their Passion and Keep Them Coming Back; Beer Festivals as a Marketing Tool; Cell Phone Services and Challenges; and Dream Big Food Drive — Ideas.

The Showmen's League of America also held events during the IAFE convention. They began on December 9 with the Exhibitors Lounge Trade Show. The organization also held an annual membership and board meeting the next day, 10. The Exhibitors Lounge Trade Show was also open this day.

The SLA and the Outdoor Amusement Business Associ-

ation held a joint luncheon on Wednesday, 11.

The IAFE zone meetings were also held during the convention.

Once a year, the fairs in the zones meet separately. Dates and places have been announced for those. They are:

•Zone 1 includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Pennsylvania, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The 2014 Zone 1 meeting will be April 10-12 in Topsfield, Massachusetts

•Zone 2 includes Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Mary-

land, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. The 2014 Zone 2 meeting will be May 15-17 in Naples Grande Beach Resort, Naples, Florida.

•Zone 3 and Zone 6 will meet together. Zone 3 includes Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and that portion of Ontario less than 85° longitude West of Greenwich. Zone 6 includes Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. The 2014 Zone 3 and Zone 6 combined meeting will be March 27-30 in Crowne Plaza, Knoxville, Tennessee.

•Zone 4 includes Manitoba, Minnesota, North Dakota, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and the portion of Ontario more than 85° longitude West of Greenwich. The 2014 Zone 4 meeting will be March 23-26 in Best Western Doublewood Inn, Fargo, North Dakota

•Zone 5 includes Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. The 2014 Zone 5 meeting will be March 7-9 in Grand Island, Nebraska

Florida State Fair Authority calling for development proposals

TAMPA, Fla. — The Florida State Fair Authority board of directors approved a competitive solicitation process in November that will give qualified development companies an opportunity to propose a conceptual development plan for the Florida State Fairgrounds.

The board made it clear that viable developer responses must include concepts that will be synergistic to the overall mission of the annual state fair, as well as compatible with the pertinent Florida Statutes under which the authority operates.

"We're excited about the opportunity to increase the value and expand the offerings of the Florida State Fairgrounds, but only if it is consistent with the mission of the fair and beneficial to the surrounding communities," said Florida Agricultural Commissioner Adam H. Putnam. Our mission,

when announcing the call for proposals. "First and foremost, is to promote agriculture and provide educational opportunities for our state's youth. I look forward to reviewing the proposals and considering the opportunities to further our mission."

The Florida State Fair Authority is seeking submissions from organizations with the demonstrated ability and capacity to deliver a compelling development approach for achieving the overall mission and goals, while at the same time, achieving revenue maximization. Revenue from a possible future development plan would be instrumental in funding renovations and capital improvements in the long range plan.

A mandatory pre-response meeting and site visit was held at the Florida State Fairgrounds on November 22, 2013. Submissions were due by Janu-

ary 3, 2014.

The Florida State Fairgrounds is a 331-acre complex, home to the Florida State Fair and approximately 300 other events each year. The Fairgrounds consists of several indoor exhibition buildings and a variety of outdoor areas as well as livestock and equestrian areas, the Mid-Florida Credit Union Amphitheatre and the Mildred W. & Doyle E. Carlton Jr. Cracker Country.

The Florida State Fair Authority operates from revenues generated from the annual State Fair and other ongoing operations during the year. Although the Authority is an instrumentality of the state of Florida, it does not receive any annual tax appropriations from the City of Tampa, Hillsborough County, or the state of Florida.

—Pam Sherborne

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2013 IAAPA's carnival and showmen's reception a sell out

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Expo not only caters to amusement and theme parks, but also to outdoor showmen who come to the show to check out the latest in mobile rides and attractions as well as food, novelties and games.

Traditionally, a carnival and showmen's reception is held Wednesday evening during the Expo. That tradition continued this year with such a large turnout, some were turned away.

Bob Johnson, Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA) president, said that while it is true it was a sellout, still 250 carnival showmen enjoyed the event sponsored by Allied Specialty Insurance.

"We have worked with IAAPA the last few years to provide a quality event for those who purchase advance tickets with their registrations," Johnson said. "For the amount of money charged for this event, it's the best value by far for attendees."

"IAAPA wants to make sure all their receptions have plenty of food and drink for the hour and a half function, as does Allied Insurance," he said. "Having this event at the Convention Center makes perfect sense for our carnivals, concessionaires and industry suppliers. We tell people this is not a dinner, it's a reception and a time for fellowship and networking."

During the 2013 reception, IAAPA's Chair Mario Mamon recognized the Showmen's League of America (SLA) for their 100th Centennial Celebration, as did OABA with a Platinum Sponsorship, presented by OABA Chair Mike Featherston. In the absence of SLA Chair Chris Atkins, former two-time SLA president Sam Johnston accepted these awards along with Executive Secretary Joe Burum.

"Everyone enjoyed this industry reception," Johnson said. "We need to do a better job making sure people get their Carnival and Showmen's Reception tickets in advance for 2014."



Allied Specialty Insurance representatives at the 2013 IAAPA Expo include, from left, Rick D'Aprile; Mary Chris Smith, owner and chairman of the board; and Gene Berger.



Relaxing during the 2013 IAAPA Expo were, from left, Michael Wood, an independent ride operator and second vice chair of the OABA; Mike Lauther, Reithoffer Shows and an OABA director; and Alan Howell, Bob's Space Racers.



Greeting friends at the showmen's reception at the 2013 IAAPA Expo are, from left, Bob Johnson, president of the Outdoor Amusement Business Assn. (OABA); Jean Clair, Luehrs' Ideal Rides; Amber Swedgen, Intera Inc.; and Joe Burum, SLA executive secretary.



Ron Burbback, Funtastic Traveling Shows, loves traveling with his family. His wife, Beverly Burbback, and daughter Tracy Burbback attended the showmen's reception during this year's IAAPA event.



Seen at the IAAPA show this year are, from left, Jeremy Floyd, independent concessionaire; Russ Kissell, Kissell Entertainment; and Ivan Arnold, Arnold Amusements.



Allied Specialty Insurance is a family affair. Seen here, from left, are sisters Lisa Cummings, Mary Chris Smith, and Annie Shugart. Mary Chris Smith is the owner and chairman of the board of Allied. Both of her sisters work there as well.

The IAAPA Expo brings together many people who haven't seen each other in a while. That is especially true with those attending the showmen's evening reception held during the IAAPA event. Showmen spend most of the year on the road playing fairs and festivals. Here, catching up are, from left, Andy Schoendienst, Luehrs' Ideal Rides; Guy Leavitt, Ray Cammack Shows; Lisa Cummings, Allied Specialty Insurance; Andrew Schoendienst, Luehrs' Ideal Rides; and Lorelei Schoendienst, Luehrs' Ideal Rides. Andrew Schoendienst is the son of Andy and Lorelei Schoendienst, who is also the aunt of Lisa Cummings.

AT PHOTOS/PAM SHERBORNE



Carnival reception cont...

Right: Tom and Christine Powell enjoy the time spent at the showmen's reception during this year's IAAPA tradeshow. Far right: Jimmy and Jim Drew, father and son, James H. Drew Expositions, visiting colleagues during the 2013 IAAPA Expo.
AT/PAM SHERBORNE



Tennessee State Fair operating group up for grabs

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Sometime this month, the Tennessee State Fair and Exposition Commission hopes to be able to name the non-profit organization that will run the fair for the next five years.

The commission put out a request for proposal in November, hoping they would find a qualified group to come forward. That group will be responsible for planning, operating and managing the annual event.

The Tennessee State Fair has seen a number of challenges over the past years including declining attendance, almost getting kicked off the fairgrounds in Nashville, and being run by at least two different groups.

Interested groups had to meet a quick deadline turnaround. The commission's deadline for completed proposals was Dec. 13. The commission will release the winning bid by mid-January.



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COMPILED: Pam Sherborne, psherborne@amusementtoday.com

There may not be a 2014 **San Joaquin County Fair** in Stockton, Calif.

Board members with the 2nd Agricultural District explored the possibility of taking a year off to retool and rebrand the fair.

Joe Valente, the new president of the 2nd District Agricultural Association, was quoted as saying last month: "Thirty years ago, the Lodi area had 35,000 acres of Tokay grapes. Today, there are just 300. The Tokays had seeds. Grape growers changed to what consumers wanted — merlot and chardonnay. It's the same with the county fair. Consumers are tired of corn dogs and the same old thing, and we're tired of the same results. Let's not rush. Maybe we should take a year off and revamp the fair rather than rush with a Band-Aid."

The fate of the fair has been in jeopardy since it became obvious last summer that the 153-year-old event could no longer stand on its own, financially speaking.

Yet, no matter what happens to the fair next summer, there will be a junior livestock show held at the fairgrounds in June.

The **Kalamazoo (Mich.) County Fair** council let the public have a say in how to improve and grow the fair. In November, they held a public planning workshop and invited the public.

"What we wanted to do tonight is really think outside the box," Fair Coordinator **Roxanne Bruce** was quoted as saying in a local news report.

Bruce led the workshop along with county parks Director **David Rachowicz**.

Bruce continued by saying: "We have all the base elements down — we have a good 4-H program, rides and good food vendors — those things aren't going to change. But outside of that, we are really kind of open to anything."

Problems such as board dysfunction and debt led to the 2013 Kalamazoo County Fair being significantly scaled back from past years as the new Fair Advisory Council attempted to rebuild the event from the ground up.

Rachowicz had deemed last September's fair a success, yet all fair officials are looking for ways to improve it. Attendees at the workshop broke off into groups to brainstorm ideas for improving the fair and gathered at the end to discuss those ideas further. Some suggestions included a demolition derby, car shows, gospel music, expanding hours and pig roasts cooked by local vendors. The next step planned was to create a draft of the ideas and present them to the council to create a three-year plan to be voted on sometime this month (January).

"The public is our customer and you might think you know what your customers want, but it's another thing to hear the customers tell you what they want," Bruce said following the workshop. "We can have all the plans in the world, but when we hear from them what it is they want we can fold that into our plan and have some reasonable assurance that we're going to make people happy."

The local news agency reported this year's fair had a total attendance of 27,000 and projected revenue was \$30,000 more than the fair's \$120,000 in expenses according to Rachowicz said.

Lake County Fairgrounds, Grayslake, Ill., will soon be partially powered by a 160 solar panel PV system. Realgy, LLC has announced the start of installation on a 37.5 kilowatt (kW) solar photovoltaic (PV) system for Lake County Fairgrounds.

The solar PV system will be installed on the roof and will occupy approximately 53- by 54-square-feet of space.

Lake County Fairgrounds, operated by Lake County Fair Association, is the home of the historic **Lake County Fair** and other quality year-round events.

The solar PV system is being installed by Renewable Energy Alternatives of Arlington Heights, Illinois.

The desire to honor Alberta's ranching heritage and a father's memory has led to a \$15 million donation to the Calgary (Alta.) Stampede, the largest donation in the exhibition's history.

An emotional oilpatch philanthropist **Don Taylors** said, when announcing the donation, that it was time the Stampede became a year-round attraction, something exhibition officials say his gift will further.

The money will help build the \$30 million SAM Centre just north of the Saddledome, which will house a youth campus and the exhibition's archives and museum.

"I've always been haunted by the fact some of the best real estate in the city is nothing but a parking lot," said Taylor of the Stampede expansion lands.

"I thought the museum would be something to help with that ... people will get the feel for what the character of the rodeo and Stampede and what the very fabric of Calgary is all about."

The donation launches a campaign to raise \$100 million to fund Stampede expansion that includes the Agrium Western Event Centre, which opens next summer and Riverfront Park, slated to be completed in 2015.

The SAM Centre will honor the donor's father **Robert Sam Taylor** who was often identified by his middle name and lived the heritage the Stampede preserves by ranching near Claresholm, said Taylor.

"He was a horseman ... he would be very pleased to have his name associated with this," he said, after the announcement.

The facility that will also be an arts hub should be completed in 2016 or 2017, he added.

The glass ceiling has come down after 109 years at the **Kendall County Fair Association**, Boeme, Texas, with **Terri Byers'** election as president of its board of directors.

The 51-year-old school registrar was seated without opposition or fanfare in November to lead the 21-member board that for decades was a male bastion, with women initially relegated to supporting roles in its auxiliary.

"Times are changing," said Byers, a former board vice president and treasurer. "There's a lot of eyes watching me, to see what I can do, but I'm okay with that."

Douglas County reached an agreement with the **Head of the Lakes Management Group** to operate the **Douglas County Fairgrounds**, Superior, Wis.

Under the terms of the agreement, the management group is responsible for operating the fairgrounds year round, planning the annual **Head of the Lakes Fair** or notifying the county by June 1 if arranging the entertainment and carnival midway proves to be infeasible. The fair is held in August.

"I'm concerned about this June 1 deadline date," said Supervisor **Sue Hendrickson**, in December. "If they're not going to hold a fair, we might not know until June. 1. Isn't that kind of late? We have 4-H'ers preparing, extension office sending out stuff."

Supervisor **Keith Allen** said the deadline is strictly for notifying the county board of the decision not to hold the fair.

"I think the 4-H has to be responsible for their own activities out there," Allen said. "If they're going to run in conjunction (with the fair) they will know."

Plans for the site could make it difficult to operate a midway in coming years.

The group will also manage the speedway.

Head of the Lakes Management Group operated the fairgrounds and speedway for the last three years.

The **Kentucky State Fair** board has submitted an operating budget request to the state that cites a long list of reasons why it's losing money and indicates it will require more than \$10 million to balance the books over the next biennium.

The forecast was contained in budget data submitted last month to the state administration and legislature by **Clifford "Rip" Rippetoe**, hired last year as the fair board's new president and CEO.

Rippetoe said in the report that the "the board has adopted a new business model to increase efficiencies and expand revenues to keep the agency moving toward operational self-sustainability in the coming decade."

He acknowledged, however, that "the financial challenges (will) keep the fair board from being self-sufficient by the end of the (next) biennium."

The fair board, an agency of state government that oversees the Kentucky Exposition Center and the Kentucky International Convention Center, is expected to require an infusion of about \$10.8 million from the state treasury to balance the books in the current two-year state budget cycle ending next June 30.

Rippetoe cited numerous reasons for the fair board's financial plight, nearly all of which have been discussed at monthly fair board meetings.

Of special note was a decline in Kentucky State Fair income — from \$10.9 million in 2011 to \$10 million in 2013 — partly because of poor attendance at some paid concerts.



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The main image is a collage featuring several amusement rides. At the top, the 'ARM A.R.M.' logo is displayed in a stylized, colorful font. Below it, a large firework explosion is visible against a dark sky. The collage includes three main ride photos: 'Frenzy' (a tall drop tower ride with a green and yellow structure), 'Vertigo' (a tall drop tower ride with a blue and white structure), and 'Drop Zone' (a red drop tower ride with multiple cars). The background of the collage is a dark blue sky with palm trees and fireworks.

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New agriculture building underway, will debut at 2014 Nebraska State Fair

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. — The Nebraska State Fair Board was recently presented with an outline of the design concepts for the interactive agriculture displays that will be in 25,000 square feet on the north end of the Nebraska Building now under construction on the fairgrounds.

According to a report in the *Grand Island Independent* news agency, the outline was presented by Dave Buchholz who said: "This is not a historic look at agriculture. This is about where agriculture is now and where it is going."

He said exhibits for the Nebraska Agriculture Experience will range from "analog, low-tech, hands-on" displays to interactive touch-screen digital technology. There are plans for a livestock area, a water management and water resources area, and an oversized sculpture of various commodities.

There will be a presentation stage in one corner where demonstrations can be given on food and meal preparation, with a small-

er stage planned for the opposite corner.

Another planned exhibit would show how agriculture is "in" everyone's home.

Additionally, officials are planning that people will be able to access some of the displays and exhibits from a distance. That would give teachers and students in classrooms around the state remote access to the agricultural displays during the school year.

The agricultural area is not intended to be open to the public just during the 10 days of the Nebraska State Fair but year round.

The Nebraska Agricultural Experience is just one portion of the Nebraska Building. The center of the building will be the Nebraska State Fair Historical Museum, while the south end will be used for Nebraska Game and Parks exhibits. The second floor will be administrative offices for the State Fair staff.

Plans are for the new building and its exhibits to be ready for the 2014 fair in August.

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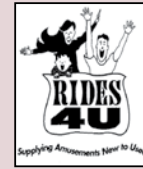
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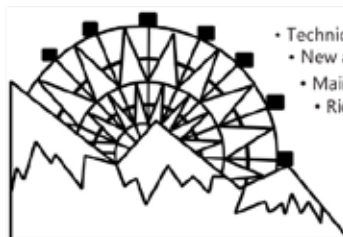
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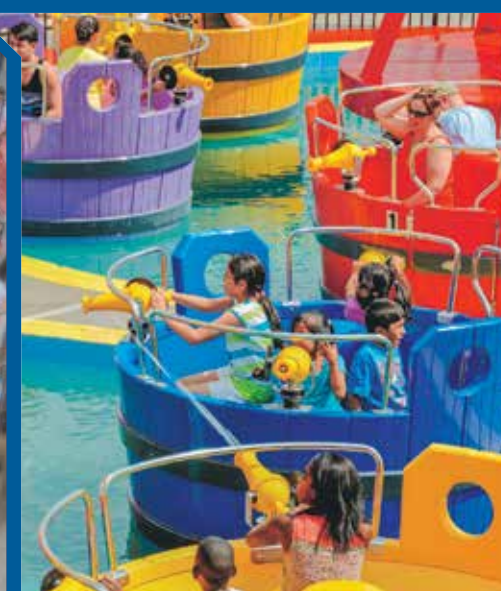


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